RICHARD STARKINGS · AXEL MEDELLIN

ELEPHANTMEN™

COMIXOLOGY ORIGINALS

2261 BOOK FOUR

"UNDER EACH SKIN"

With JOHN ROSHELL, TYLER SMITH *and* IAN CHURCHILL

"Our best machines
are made out of sunshine;
they are all light and clean
because they are nothing but
signals, electromagnetic waves,
a section of a spectrum, and these
machines are eminently portable,
mobile... People are nowhere
near as Fluid, being both material
and opaque. Cyborgs are
ether, quintessence...
They are about consciousness --
or its simulation."

THE CYBORG MANIFESTO
Donna J. Haraway
ManiFestly Haraway

"COMICRAFT" PRESENTS

ELEPHANTMEN

RICHARD STARKINGS AXEL MEDELLIN

7761

UNDER EACH SKIN

JOHN ROSHELL • TYLER SMITH • IAN CHURCHILL

RICHARD STARKINGS is not only the creator/writer of ELEPHANTMEN but also cocreator, with Abigail Jill Harding, of ASK FOR MERCY and cocreator, with Tyler Shainline and Shaky Kane, of THE BEEF. In the course of a distinguished career in comic books, Richard edited a line of original titles for Marvel UK in the '80s, founded the COMICRAFT design and lettering studio in the '90s and established the foremost and most extensive source for comic book lettering fonts at comicbookfonts.com. He has worked as a lettering artist on just about every mainstream comic book you might care to mention -- including BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE -- and has written comic strips for THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS, ZOIDS, TRANSFORMERS, and DOCTOR WHO. With Comicraft's Secret Weapon, John Roshell, Richard created the indispensable guide COMIC BOOK LETTERING THE COMICRAFT WAY as well as the artist retrospectives TIM SALE: BLACK AND WHITE and J. SCOTT CAMPBELL: TIME CAPSULE. Richard loves Bettys Tearooms, Cadbury's Flake, and Lori Perkins, but not necessarily in that order.

AXEL MEDELLIN has been creating art for the ELEPHANTMEN series since 2010. Nevertheless, he has somehow managed to fit in drawing and coloring other comics for HEAVY METAL, Zenescope, Boom! Studios, and Image Comics' 50 GIRLS 50 with Frank Cho. This collection of ELEPHANTMEN features Axel's thousandth penciled page of the series. Next stop: TWO thousand!

He is probably meeting a deadline right now.

IAN CHURCHILL left a career in graphic design to work professionally in comics in 1994, when he was hired on the spot at a London comic convention by Marvel's editor-in-chief at the time, Bob Harras. Alongside Jeph Loeb, Churchill took Marvel's X-Men title, CABLE to new heights shortly before Joe Casey and Ladrönn created their memorable run on the book. As well as writing and drawing his own creator owned series, MARINEMAN, Ian has illustrated THE AVENGERS, UNCANNY X-MEN, SUPERMAN, COVEN and was the first to illustrate a comic strip featuring a certain character by the name of HIP FLASK!

"COMICRAFT" PRESENTS

RICHARD STARKINGS PRESIDENT & FIRST TIGER • **JOHN ROSHELL** SECRET WEAPON

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TYLER SMITH PRODUCTION • **IAN CHURCHILL** COVER ART

1

NO!

DILLON?

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE READ THE MANUAL!

WHAT LIES...

...UNDER SYNTHETIC SKIN?

"The cyborg does not dream of community."

THE CYBORG MANIFESTO
Donna J. Haraway
ManiFestly Haraway

LOS ANGELES • CALIFORNIA • 2261

MYSTERY CITY.

Turn your back on it for even just a MOMENT and it climbs even higher into the sky, even FURTHER past the distant horizon.

Smart ELEPHANTMEN don't look up above the street signs and billboards, just in case one of the out-of-towners on the latest barge should spot them and ask for a SELFHOLO.

I bet when NIKKEN created the Elephantmen, he wasn't thinking we'd end up as tourist attractions.

That's the problem with LIVING WEAPONS... they go on LIVING after wars come to an end.

And you have to keep FEEDING them. Super Soldiers come with a BIG appetite.

Whenever I have a hankering for Noodles at THE WHITE DRAGON, I always call ahead to make sure they have enough to serve me AND other customers.

People have more than enough reasons to hate Elephantmen, I try not give them more.

And that was where I saw her.

There was something in her eyes.

Something I just couldn't look away from.

She looked LOST.

UM, HEY... ARE YOU OKAY, SWEETHEART?

Seemed like she was MILES away. And then some.

UH, YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN, GET OUT OF THE *RAIN* FOR A MINUTE?

OH.

UM, SURE.

I'M SO SORRY, I DIDN'T REALISE YOU WERE TALKING TO ME...

I'M NOT USED TO, UH, Y'KNOW...

...HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH A HIPPO, YEAH, I GET THAT A LOT.

CAN I GET YOU SOME CHICKEN NOODLES?

JUST BOBA, *OAT MILK*. I'M VEGETARIAN.

THANK YOU.

VEGETARIAN. ≠TSCH≠

YOU'RE AN ELEPHANTMAN, AREN'T YOU?

YOU MAY *LOOK* A LITTLE LOST, BUT YOU'RE NOT *BACKWARDS* IN COMING FORWARDS, ARE YOU?

I JUST -- I DIDN'T KNOW TRANSGENICS LIKED SUSHI.

NAH, I'M HERE FOR THE ***SOUP*** -- DON'T LIKE SUSHI -- IT TASTES JUST LIKE COLD FISH.

UNDER EACH SKIN - PART ONE

COLD FISH

RICHARD STARKINGS
STORY & LETTERS

ABEL MEDELLIN
ART & COLORS

HSHSMHS

HSMHS

HSHSM

HSM

HSHS

HSHSM

HHSHSM

HHSHSMHSMHS

HHSHSMHSMHS

HSOOO

DUDE. SHE'S, LIKE *TOTALLY UNDERNOURISHED*. YOU HAVE TO GET HER BATHED REGULARLY OR HER SKIN WILL START TO DECAY.

ALWAYS *READ THE MANUAL!* I MEAN, REPLACEMENT ***SKINS*** ARE *SERIOUSLY* EXPENSIVE.

AND YOU DO ***NOT*** WANT TO TRUST THOSE ***USED SKINS*** YOU FIND ON THE SLATE. WHO KNOWS ***WHERE*** THEY'VE BEEN OR ***WHAT*** THEY'VE DONE. YOU CAN PICK UP PARASITES.

ISN'T HE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A ***CHIME*** OR SET A CALENDAR REMINDER?

"HE"? REALLY?

SHE -- ***HE*** -- ***THEM!*** LOOK, IT'S NOT REALLY ***MY*** ROBOT, IT WAS GIFTED TO ME AND MY PARTNER BY THE ***SCHEREZADE ESTATE.****

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2261: THE DEATH OF SHORTY.

"HIS NAME IS ***DILLON***, A ***CYBERSOL SERIES ONE*** MODEL, BUT THERE WAS A -- AN INCIDENT* -- HE HAD TO UPLOAD HIS ENGRAM TO THIS SERIES ***SIX***.

"***HER*** NAME! HER NAME IS ***DILLON***. I DUNNO, WERE WE SUPPOSED TO CHANGE HIS ***NAME?***

"***HER*** NAME!

"ANYWAY, THE ***SCHEREZADE ESTATE*** IS PAYING FOR HER MAINTENANCE. NO ONE TOLD ME HOW OFTEN SHE'S SUPPOSED TO *FILL UP*...

"I BARELY REMEMBER TO FEED ***MYSELF***, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN A ***ROBOT'S*** HEAD?!"

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2261: THE PENTALION JOB

ANYWAY, I'M *HIERONYMOUS*, SOME PEOPLE CALL ME *RONNIE*, BUT MOST CALL ME *HIP*.

HIP FLASK.

I'M *ALONIA*. ALONE BY NAME, ALONE BY NATURE.

A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU? GET OUT OF HERE.

I AM SURPRISED YOU NOTICED ME.

DON'T WE ALL LOOK THE SAME TO YOU?

NOT AT ALL. MOST TRANSGENICS LIKE ME HAVE HEIGHTENED -- *ENHANCED* -- SENSES. WE IDENTIFY PEOPLE BY *SMELL* AS MUCH AS BY *SIGHT*.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT YOU HAVE A, UH, VERY PLEASANT SMELL.

REALLY? OH, I'M FLATTERED.

THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU TO SAY.

ALTHOUGH, FULL DISCLOSURE, I DO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

YOU DO? IS SHE A *TRANSGENIC*?

NO, SHE'S *HUMAN*... LIKE *YOU*.

LIKE ME!

LUCKY GIRL!

LONG STORY, BUT I'LL MAKE IT SHORT.

I DON'T THINK THEY MADE ANY *FEMALE TRANSGENICS*, OTHER THAN THE *HYENAS*.*

SO, HOW -- HOW DOES THAT, I MEAN, HOW DID YOU MEET?

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: ALL COMING EVIL

So I told her about my tussle with ELIJAH, missing out what we were fighting OVER.

Because the only significant thing about that fight is the fact that the Croc sank his TEETH into me...

...and yeah, I BIT BACK -- leaving him with his tail floating between his legs -- but I lost a lot of blood and if MIKI hadn't spotted me, I might have bled out there on the banks of the L.A River.

When I got to the hospital, she was there too.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2259: MANMADE MONSTERS

And, of course, I told her we've kinda been together ever since.

DO YOU AND THE OTHER ELEPHANTMEN FIGHT EACH OTHER OFTEN?

ALONIA... YOU'RE NOT A REPORTER, ARE YOU?

NO, I *PROMISE*! I'M JUST INTERESTED.

I NEVER TALKED TO A TRANSGENIC BEFORE.

SO, *DO* YOU BOYS FIGHT A LOT?

UM, DEFINE "*A LOT*..."

"HOW LONG IS THIS GONNA TAKE?"

AT LEAST ANOTHER HOUR. SHE WAS *SPENT*.

HM. CAN I GET ONE OF THESE *NUTRIENT TANKS* FOR THE OFFICE?

IS THIS PLEASURE MODEL REGISTERED WITH YOU NOW?

"PLEASURE MODEL?!?"

HUH. THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN HER EAGERNESS TO, UH, PLEASE.

I MEAN, SHE'S LIPPY, BUT SHE DOES WHAT WE ASK.

ORDINARY, *TOTALLY NORMAL* NON-PLEASURE MODEL STUFF I MEAN.

INTERESTING.

PROBABLY HER BASIC OPERATING SYSTEM IS STILL RUNNING.

"DILLON WAS KIND OF SCHEREZADE'S ***BUTLER***, HE'S STILL IN THERE TOO.

PRESS

"THAT'S OBVIOUSLY WHERE THE ***ATTITUDE*** COMES FROM.

"LIKE THERE'S TWO PERSONALITIES IN THE SAME SPACE. HUNH."

"ANYWAY, POINT IS, SHE WORKS FOR ME -- I MEAN -- *WITH* ME"

IT'S ALL TOTALLY PROFESSIONAL AND ABOVE BOARD.

UH-HUH.

IF SHE'S CYBERSOL SERIES SIX, I'D TAKE ADVANTAGE IF I WERE YOU.

I BET YOU WOULD. BUT YOU MIGHT BE, UM, SHOCKED BY HER *BEDSIDE MANNER*.

"IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES UNTIL SOMEONE GETS HURT!"

WE CAN ARRANGE FOR THE POD TO BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO YOUR OFFICES, MISTER FARRELL.

"THE SCHEREZADE ACCOUNT IS IN VERY GOOD STANDING, I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO RESTORE HER IN GOOD TIME."

HOW SOFT WOULD YOU LIKE HER SKIN?

WHAT?

HOW... SOFT?

TO THE TOUCH...

WE CAN MAKE A NUMBER OF ADJUSTMENTS TO HER SENSITIVITY ACCORDING TO YOUR PERSONAL TASTE.

THERE IS NO NEED TO BE SHY, SIR. I AM ALSO A ***CYBERSOL SYNTHETIC***, I AM INCAPABLE OF JUDGING YOU.

UH, NO, THAT REALLY WON'T BE ***AT ALL*** NECESSARY.

YOU AND YOUR... *SPARKPLUG ATTENDANT* HAVE GOT IT ALL WRONG. SHE'S MORE LIKE A *COLLEAGUE*--

AN ASSISTANT!

AH. I UNDERSTAND.

FOR *THREESOMES*.

LISTEN, I'M AN IRISH CATHOLIC, THE ONLY THREESOME I'M LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN INVOLVES *GOLF*.

LOOK, I'VE NEVER WORKED WITH A SYNTHETIC BEFORE. THIS IS NEW TO ME. I WASN'T EVEN AWARE SHE NEEDED REGULAR, UM, *BATHS*.

DILLON WAS A ***PRESSBUTTON*** CYBERSOL SERIES ONE. JUST A BASIC ***ROBOT***. I THINK THEY USED TO PLUG HIM INTO THE MAINS.

I AM SERIES SEVEN.

CAN I INTEREST YOU IN AN UPGRADE?

UH...

NO, NO. NOT A GOOD IDEA. NO.

ONE QUESTION THOUGH...

CAN YOU UPLOAD SOMEONE'S ***MEMORIES?***

CAN I ASK YOU A *QUESTION*...

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE... ***HUMAN?***

WELL, THAT DEPENDS, DOESN'T IT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY *"HUMAN"*?

OH.

I THINK IT MEANS...

TO HAVE THE RIGHT... *HEART*... TO CARE ABOUT *OTHERS*, TO BE IN POSSESSION OF A...

A *CONSCIENCE*? *COMPASSION*? A ***SOUL?***

ALONIA, PEOPLE OFTEN THINK THE ELEPHANTMEN HAVE NEITHER CONSCIENCE NOR AN *INDEPENDENT MIND*. BUT WE'RE NOT ***ROBOTS***.

NO, *OF COURSE NOT*. I HOPE YOU DON'T FIND MY QUESTION OFFENSIVE.

I CAN ***SEE*** THAT YOU HAVE A SOUL. I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE ***KIND***...

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR ***EYES***...

MY EYES? WELL, IF YOU'D MET ME ON THE BATTLEFIELD, MY EYES WOULD HAVE LOOKED VERY DIFFERENT TO YOU THEN...*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2239: WAR TOYS

UNDER EACH ELEPHANTMEN'S SKIN WAS A SORT OF CONTROL DEVICE... SUPPRESSING OUR MORE COMPASSIONATE INSTINCTS...

ACCENTUATING OUR MORE AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES. SO THAT WE WOULD HUNT, SO THAT WE WOULD KILL.

THEY TURNED YOU INTO LIVING WEAPONS!

PRETTY MUCH.

SO YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE DID YOU? THE PEOPLE THAT MADE YOU, THE SCIENTISTS THAT PUT THOSE DEVICES UNDER YOUR SKIN...

THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THOSE LIVES THAT WERE LOST. THEY ARE THE REAL KILLERS!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT.

LOOK AT THAT...

THE RAIN HAS STOPPED. I SHOULD GET BACK TO *WORK*.

HUH. WHAT IS IT YOU DO?

I'M... A *PERSONAL SHOPPER* FOR A VERY WEALTHY MAN.

HEY, IT WAS REALLY NICE MEETING YOU, THANK YOU, YOU REALLY *HELPED* ME TODAY.

NO, *PLEASE*, *YOU* HELPED ME...

BYE.

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME *SHOP* SOMETIME SOON.

I WOULD HAVE LOVED THAT, HIP.

WELL, UH, MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.

And then she just walked away.

As she started to disappear BACK into the crowd, I had a sickening feeling that I WASN'T going to see her again.

Then I noticed she'd left her Boba...

What was it GABBATHA used to say, rest his soul?

"The only thing more ridiculous than a man running after his HAT in the street, is an Elephantman running after a WOMAN..."

But, yeah, I RAN...

ALONIA!

I just didn't run fast ENOUGH...

DESERT BREEZES

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WELCOME TO SAHARA'S *DESERT BREEZES*, I'M *HONEY*...

COULD I JUST QUICKLY LOOK INSIDE YOUR BAG...?

I'M SORRY, THAT DROID IS *VERY* SENSITIVE TO EXPLOSIVES.

BUT IT'S *ALWAYS* A FALSE POSITIVE.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE...

I ASSURE YOU, THERE'S NO BOMB IN THERE.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM MY BAG.

PLEASE ACCEPT *MY* APOLOGIES.

BECAUSE *I* AM A BOMB.

Mind you, had I got there any sooner...

WHAT?

DESERT ORDER

...well this'd be a WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY wouldn't it?

To Be Continued!

2

OBADIAH HORN vs. SHOCK CROC!

TO THE DEATH!

KILL-- OR BE KILLED!

RUMBLE IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLE!

"The tradition of reproduction
of the self from the reflections
of the other -- the relation
between organism and machine
has been a border war."

THE CYBORG MANIFESTO

Donna J. Haraway

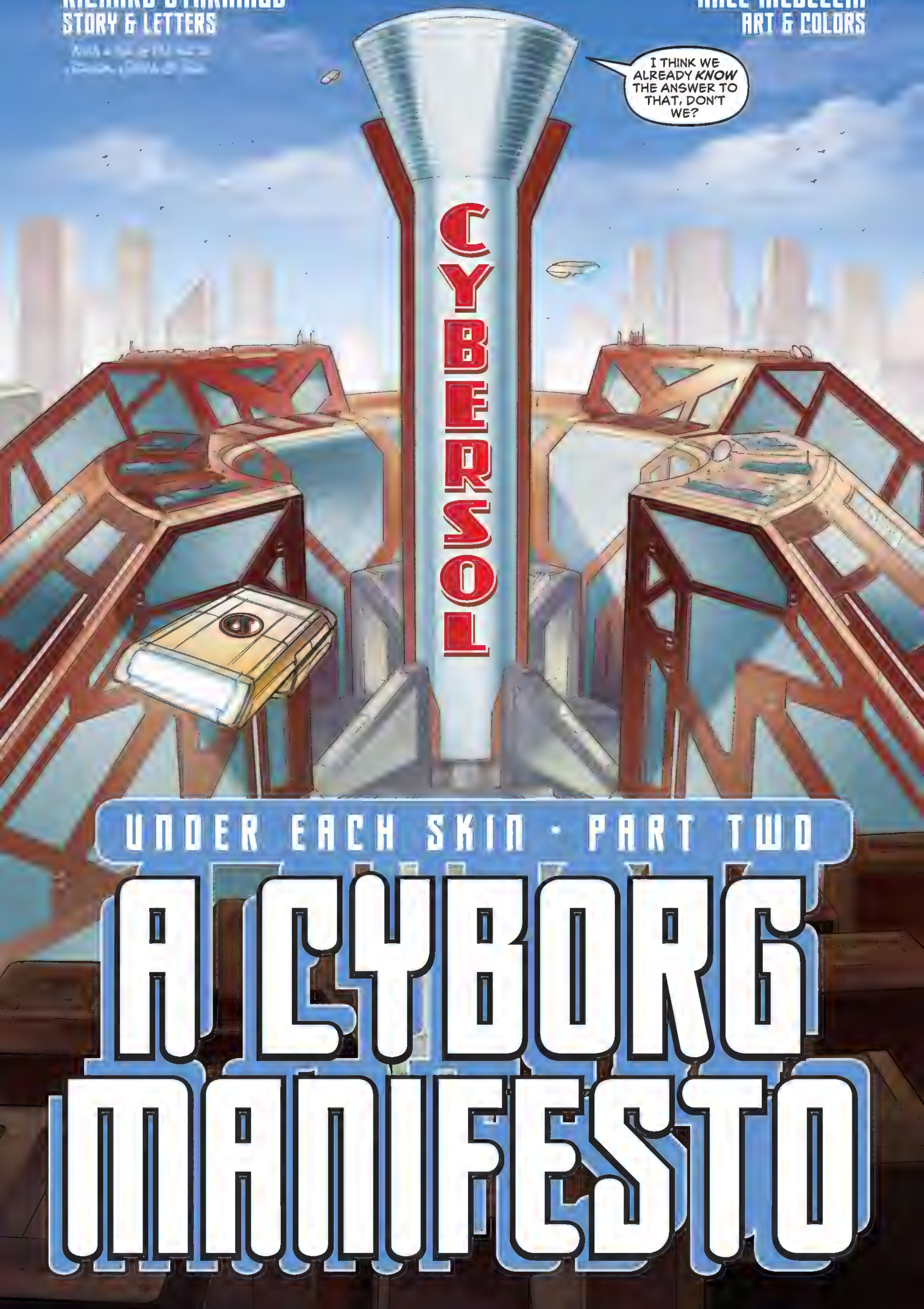
ManiFestly Haraway

THIS IS ONE OF YOURS RIGHT?!

LOS ANGELES • CALIFORNIA • 2261

RICHARD STARKINGS
STORY & LETTERS

AXEL MEDELLIN
ART & COLORS



UNDER EACH SKIN · PART TWO

AXEBORG MANIFESTO

BUT, PLEASE, *AGENT FLASK*, PERMIT ME TO TAKE A *CLOSER* LOOK.

YES, YES, THIS IS, INDEED, A ***CYBERSOL SERIES EIGHT*** MODEL. ONE OF THE NEWEST IN OUR RANGE.

DEFINITELY, AS YOU SO ***PASSIONATELY*** PUT IT...

ONE OF MINE.

PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T IMMEDIATELY NOTICE THE *LIKENESS?*

I MEAN, THAT'S PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE. SHE'S BEEN TRASHED, HASN'T SHE?

YOU SEEM UPSET.

I AM UPSET! SHE AND I WERE HAVIN' A VERY NICE CONVERSATION!

SO WOULDYA MIND TELLING ME HOW YOUR *SEXY LITTLE ROBOT* THERE MADE HER WAY ***DOWNTOWN*** AND TURNED ONE OF SAHARA'S STOREFRONTS INTO AN ***INFERNO?***

LAST TIME I LOOKED, THERE WERE ***LAWS*** PREVENTING *SYNTHETICS* FROM GETTING UP TO CRAP LIKE THIS.

NEXGEN INSTITUTE SAN GABRIEL · 2261

EMPTY. THIS WHOLE PLACE IS *EMPTY!*

ALL THE GESTATION MACHINES... EVERYTHING... GONE.

HORN INDUSTRIES MOVES FASTER THAN BAD NEWS.

NEWSFLASH, FARRELL: HORN INDUSTRIES *IS* BAD NEWS!

BUT DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHY WE FOUND *YOUR* FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER THIS PLACE?

HORN *HAS* FILED A COMPLAINT.

TRESPASS IS STILL A CRIME IN THIS STATE.

OH, I'VE *BEEN* HERE BEFORE, HOMSI, I'M NOT DENYING THAT. *MORE* THAN ONCE IN FACT... A *LOT* OF MEMORIES.

"AND ONE MEMORY IN PARTICULAR, *SCARLET!**

"INSURANCE JOB. NEXGEN HAD THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT A NUMBER OF THEIR EMPLOYEES. I ZEROED IN ON THIS ONE GAL IN PARTICULAR.

"I GOT TO KNOW WHERE SHE GOT HER *GROCERIES*, WHERE SHE GOT HER MORNING *COFFEE*...

"AND, Y'KNOW, I GOT TO KNOW WHERE SHE *SLEPT*... BECAUSE I GOT TO SLEEP THERE TOO.

THAT'S WHERE MY MEMORIES GET KINDA *FUZZY*...

BECAUSE NEXGEN WAS MESSING WITH MY HEAD.

"THEY DIDN'T WANT ANYONE KNOWING WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON HERE. THEY PLANTED ***FALSE MEMORIES*** -- IN ***MY*** HEAD AND IN SCARLET'S...

"WHEREAS, IN FACT, SHE WAS SUFFERING A FATE ***WORSE*** THAN DEATH... THEY MADE HER PART OF THEIR ***PROGRAM***.

"THEY HAD ME BELIEVING I'D KILLED HER IN A FIT OF JEALOUS RAGE...

"THEY ***IMPREGNATED*** HER WITH TRANSGENIC, Y'KNOW, ***ELEPHANTMEN***, D.N.A...

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

"NEXGEN HAD PUT NANITES IN OUR BLOODSTREAMS. WE WERE *'TETHERED;'* SHARED MEMORIES. *FAKE* MEMORIES.

"DON'T ASK ME HOW I GOT OUT OF HERE THEN... BUT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M BACK HERE, WELL, I REMEMBER...

"...I REMEMBER *SCARLET*. I THINK SHE'S STILL ALIVE. SHE'S OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE."

NEXGEN? RINGS A BELL. THE INCIDENT AT THE HOSPITAL.

YOUR FIREARM DISCHARGED *"INVOLUNTARILY."*

SO HOW DOES YOUR *NEW* GIRLFRIEND FEEL ABOUT SCARLET?

DILLON. *SYNTHETIC*. I BROUGHT HIM -- *HER!* -- ALONG BECAUSE HER MEMORY OF RECENT EVENTS MIGHT COME IN USEFUL.

DILLON, PLAY BACK THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE.

+++ THIS ONE IS ++ SORRY + MISTER FARRELL +

*See THEO LAROUX MEETS THE ELEPHANTMEN

"+++ THERE WAS AN INCIDENT ++"

+++ IN ORDER TO RESTORE NORMAL FUNCTIONS ++ THIS ONE HAD TO CREATE OPERATING SPACE +

+++ THOSE MEMORIES ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO ME +

WHAT ABOUT -- WAIT... MEMORY STORAGE.

DILLON, CAN YOU STILL DETECT THE NEXGEN CLOUD?

+++ THIS ONE HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO THE NETWORK HERE + + SINCE WE ARRIVED +

IVORY TOWERS

DOWNTOWN L.A.

OBADIAH HORN HAS BUILT AN EMPIRE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RACE THAT CREATED HIM.

THE **HORN INDUSTRIES** CORPORATION OWNS BUSINESSES, PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY AND PHARMACEUTICALS, PATENTS AND COUNTLESS INVESTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THAP

HORN HIMSELF IS RICH BEYOND THE DREAMS OF **CROESUS**. HE HAS **STATESMEN** AND **POLITICIANS** IN HIS POCKET, READY TO DO HIS **BIDDING**.

IF HE **WISHED**, HE COULD TOPPLE A **GOVERNMENT** ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD. IF YOU SPOKE TO SOME OF HIS **ADVISORS**, YOU WOULD FIND OUT THAT HE HAS GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO SUCH WISHES.

IF HE IS NOT **FEARED**, HE IS STILL **HATED**, AND HE IS MORE THAN COMFORTABLE WITH THAT.

THAP

FWAP

THERE ARE PLENTY STILL WHO **ADMIRE**, **SUPPORT** AND EVEN **LOVE** HIM.

SOME ARE SO FOOLHARDY THEY PRACTICALLY **WORSHIP** HIM, SUCH IS THE ARROGANCE AND IGNORANCE OF THE HUMAN CONDITION.

THOSE POOR SOULS WOULD STILL FIND REASON TO BLAME OTHERS, EVEN IF HORN HIMSELF WERE TO FIRE A **BULLET** INTO THEIR CHESTS.

IN THE WORLD OF MAN, **WEALTH** IS POWER, AND **POWER** CAN CAUSE THOSE WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

IS THAT THE BEST YOU'VE **GOT**, DELANEY?

IN THE WORLD OF THE ELEPHANTMEN, HORN IS **DESPISED**, AND ONLY THE MOST DESPICABLE OF THEIR KIND ALLY THEMSELVES WITH HIM.

CASE IN POINT: THE HALF-HUMAN/HALF-CROCODILE KNOWN AS **ELIJAH DELANEY**.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I NEED THOSE AROUND ME TO BE **STRONG**. **MERCILESS!**

FWAP

GET UP!

AM I WASTING MY TIME HERE? SHOULD I CAST YOU BACK IN THE **GUTTER** WHERE I FOUND YOU?*

ARE YOU NO BETTER THAN THE **HUMAN TRASH** WE ELIMINATED IN THE WAR?

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2259: MANMADE MONSTERS

HUMAN--?!

I AM A **REPTILE!** I ATE HUMAN BABIES FOR **BREAKFAST!**

I WILL ENJOY SINKING MY TEETH INTO YOUR FLABBY HIDE!

BETTER, BUT PREDICTABLE.

WOKT!

YES, THERE ARE ELEPHANTMEN THAT ARE CONSIDERED ALLIES OF OBADIAH HORN...

WAP

BUT EVEN THEY DESPISE HIM. THEY DESPISE WHAT HE HAS BECOME: **SUCCESSFUL** IN THE WORLD OF HUMAN BEINGS.

SCHWIP

OTHERS WANT HIM **DEAD** FOR WHAT THEY SEE AS A BETRAYAL OF THEIR STRANGE, **TRANSGENIC**, SPECIES...

FWAP

BUT PERHAPS IT IS EVEN SIMPLER THAN THAT.

THAP

SCHWAP

PERHAPS IT IS JUST A MATTER OF **SURVIVAL!**

FOR THE LAW ELEPHANTMEN FOLLOW IS NOT HUMAN LAW...

SHWUP

WAKT

THEIRS IS THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE!

WHSSSH

WOK!

DEEP DOWN IN THE CORE OF THEIR DNA THEY UNDERSTAND ONE THING, VERY CLEARLY...

KILL -- OR BE KILLED!

OBADIAH HORN IS A SURVIVOR. THERE ARE MANY WHO HAVE CROSSED HIS PATH WHO HAVE NOT **SURVIVED.**

HE HAS ENCOUNTERED MANY ENEMIES AND LEFT THEM EITHER DEAD OR IRREPARABLY BROKEN.

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO HAS NOT ONLY ELUDED HIM, BUT ALSO HURT HIM.

BETTER. YOU ARE PERHAPS READY FOR A NEW TARGET.

SERENGHETI.

SERENGHETI? YOU WANT ME TO KILL *THE BUTCHER OF LOS ANGELES?* ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

HAVE A CARE, DELANEY, OR WE MIGHT CONTINUE OUR FIGHT AND I WILL NOT BE QUITE AS EASY ON YOU.

WHEN I ***WANT*** *SERENGHETI* DEAD, I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM ***MYSELF***.

HOWEVER, I HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON MY WIFE'S BUSINESS, AND I CANNOT ALLOW SUCH AN ACTION TO GO UNPUNISHED.

BUT YOU WARNED US TO GO EASY ON SERENGHETI AND HIS GOONS UNTIL THE... *FAMILY MATTER* HAD BEEN RESOLVED...

THE FAMILY MATTER. YES, INDEED. SERENGHETI THINKS THAT BECAUSE HE STOLE MY NEWBORN CHILD,* HE CAN ACT WITH IMPUNITY.

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: THE RED QUEEN

I CAN NO LONGER ALLOW HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE CASE. IF HE WANTS A WAR, WE WILL ***GIVE*** HIM A WAR.

SERENGHETI'S CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE IS BUILT ON LITTLE MORE THAN ***CHEAP*** HUMAN ***WEAKNESSES***. YOU AND YOUR TEAM WILL ***ATTACK*** AND ***DESTROY*** HIS SUPPLY LINES AND INTIMIDATE THE SMALL TIME CROOKS THAT WORK FOR HIM.

I WANT YOU TO STRIKE ***TERROR*** INTO THE HEARTS OF ANYONE AND ***EVERYONE*** WHO HAS SOUGHT TO MAKE EVEN A ***SINGLE DOLLAR*** FROM HIS OPERATIONS. KILL ***ANYONE*** THAT YOU HAVE TO, BUT LEAVE PLENTY ***ALIVE*** TO TELL OTHERS THAT WORKING FOR SERENGHETI HAS DIRE CONSEQUENCES.

IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE.

SAHARA WILL BE TROUBLED BY THIS COURSE OF ACTION, OBADIAH.

LEAVE MY WIFE TO ME, MISTER PURCHASE. WHEN OUR ***SON*** IS BACK IN HER ARMS, SHE WILL NOT QUESTION ***HOW*** HE GOT THERE.

"THE *CYBERSOL SERIES EIGHT* HAS ONLY BEEN IN PRODUCTION A FEW SHORT MONTHS... EVERY PART IS DOCUMENTED WITH ITS OWN SERIAL NUMBER AND DIGITAL I.D... EVERY MODEL WE'VE SOLD HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR."

I DUNNO, ROBOTS CAN BE FREAKIN' SMART...

MAYBE SHE *FILED OFF* ALL HER IDENTIFYING MARKS AND UP AND *WALKED* OUTTA HERE.

IMPOSSIBLE, AGENT FLASK. IT WOULD BE EASIER TO REWRITE YOUR *DNA*.

NICE! CAN I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT? *FRIDAY?*

YOU'RE FUNNY, AGENT FLASK, BUT EVERY ONE OF OUR EIGHTS IS *UNIQUE* IN THEIR OWN WAY. THE FACT THAT YOU TOOK A LIKING TO THE ONE YOU MET IS A *TESTAMENT* TO THE *SKILLS* OF OUR ENGINEERS.

HOW DO THEY FEEL ABOUT YOU CALLING THEM ALL *"EIGHTS,"* I WONDER?

SOUNDS A LOT LIKE *"MUNTS"* OR *"TRANSGENICS"* OR HOWABOUT *"ELEPHANTMEN?"*

WE WERE ENGINEERED TOO, YOU KNOW. *NIKKEN* WAS *SO* PROUD!

"ENGINEERED, AND *SOLD*. LIKE PIECES OF *MEAT*.

"MUCH LIKE YOUR GIRLS HERE!"

ISN'T IT UNNERVING FOR YOU TO SEE SO MANY ROBOTS THAT LOOK LIKE YOU?

A LITTLE. BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE NO FEAR OF BEING SUED FOR APPROPRIATION OF SOMEONE ELSE'S LIKENESS.

FOR THAT REASON, I PREFER THE TERM ***DUPLICANTS***. OUR LAWYERS ARE STILL RUNNING A TRADEMARK SEARCH ON THAT HOWEVER.

AFTER THE A.I WARS, WEREN'T SYNTHETICS THAT LOOKED LIKE PEOPLE MADE ILLEGAL ?

THAT'S RIGHT, AGENT CASE.

NEVERTHELESS, THE HUMAN FORM IS THE ONE HUMANS ARE MOST COMFORTABLE BEING AROUND.

THE LAW WAS CHANGED.

SO I'M GUESSIN' NO ***ELEPHANTMEN ROBOTS*** COMING ANY TIME SOON?

ANYWAY, AREN'T YOUR "*DUPLICANTS*" SUPPOSED TO COME WITH A ***WARNING LABEL***, SO WE DON'T MISTAKE THEM FOR, YOU KNOW, ***REAL*** PEOPLE?

ARE YOU "*REAL PEOPLE*", MISTER FLASK?

"REAL PEOPLE?" VANITY CASE HAS NO LOVE FOR **ANDROIDS**, ROBOTS OR **DUPLICANTS** OR WHATEVER **CYBERSOL** WANT TO CALL THEM...

SHE'S BEEN AN INFORMATION AGENT LONG ENOUGH NOW TO KEEP HER FEELINGS TO HERSELF.

BUT ONE OF THESE THINGS **FOLLOWED** HER. TRIED TO **KILL** HER.

SHE CAN STILL **SEE** HIM.

EVERY SINGLE TIME SHE CLOSES HER EYES.

SHE WAS **LUCKY**. **SAHARA** AND HER BODYGUARD SAVED HER.*

IS THAT WHY SAHARA HAS BEEN TARGETED NOW?

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2259 #29

FOR THE RECORD, *REAL PEOPLE* DIED WHEN YOUR "*PRODUCT*", YOUR "*DUPLICANT*" DESTROYED ***DESERT BREEZES*** DOWNTOWN.

THE GIRL YOU BEFRIENDED ALSO DIED, OF COURSE. I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

BUT SHE ***WASN'T*** A GIRL, WAS SHE? SHE WAS JUST A ***MACHINE*** JUST LIKE YOUR BOYS HERE...

WHAT KIND OF ***ROBOTS*** ARE THESE ANYWAY?

BUT SHE WAS ***NOT*** LIKE *THEM*, WAS SHE? SHE WAS *FLIRTACIOUS*, KIND, *THOUGHTFUL*, ***INQUISITIVE***. SHE MADE A ***CONNECTION*** WITH YOU, DON'T YOU THINK, AGENT FLASK?

OUR EIGHT SERIES ARE ***EMPATHETIC***. THEY *LEARN* FROM EACH OTHER, SO THAT THEY CAN ***EVOLVE***.

"MY BOYS" ARE JUST ***GRUNTS***. INHOUSE SECURITY AND MANUAL LABOR.

THEY'RE HARMLESS UNLESS YOU HAVE HARMFUL ***INTENT***.

LIKE ***ALL*** ROBOTS, RIGHT?

DILLON USEDTA TROT OUT THAT SAME *PRIME DIRECTIVE* CRAP. *"A ROBOT MAY NOT INJURE A HUMAN BEING OR, THROUGH INACTION, BLAH BLAH BLAH..."*

DID I MENTION THAT *HUMAN BEINGS* ARE ***DEAD?***

AND ONE OF YOUR ***TOYS*** KILLED THEM!

AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO COOPERATE WITH YOU AND THE INFORMATION AGENCY TO ENSURE THAT THE ***TERRORISTS*** RESPONSIBLE ARE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE--

EUGENIE, IF I MAY... I CAN THINK OF ***ONE*** PARTICULAR CLIENT WHO ACQUIRED ONE OF OUR EARLY MODELS AND HAS A, UM, *COMPLICATED* RELATIONSHIP WITH SAHARA AND OBADIAH HORN...

LONG BEACH

SPECIALTY IMPORTS

SERENGHETI!

LIEUTENANT *TRENCH*.

YOU WERE EXPECTED.

FREEZE, MUNT!

THIS MUNT--

WAK

WUM

DOES NOT--

"FREEZE!"

THWAK

BUT HOW ABOUT I PUT YOU ON ICE?!

BLAM BLAM

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO BE *SURPRISED*, DID YOU? YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A REASON TO BRING YOUR *PRIVATE LITTLE WAR* HERE FOR SOME TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?

DID YOU FIND MY *FINGERPRINTS* SOMEWHERE INCRIMINATING AT LONG LAST?

DID YOU PERHAPS *PLANT* THEM THERE?

YOU DROP A **BOMB** IN DOWNTOWN L.A, THERE ARE GOING TO BE **CONSEQUENCES**, SERENGHETI.

I MAY HAVE NO LOVE FOR **HORN INDUSTRIES**, BUT **SAHARA** AND **DESERT BREEZES** ARE PROTECTED BY THE SAME LAWS THAT HAVE LET YOU--

SAHARA...?

IF MY ERRANT **DAUGHTER** AND HER **MUNT** HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, I APPLAUD ANY SUCH ACTIONS...

WAK

...BUT IF I WANTED THEM **DEAD**, I HAVE HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO KILL THEM.

WHMPCH!

I PREFER THAT YOU AND YOUR KIND -- AND THE **SIMPS** THAT SEEM TO CARE ABOUT YOU -- **SUFFER!**

WHSHSH

IS THAT SO?!

KRMMP

PRAY TO WHATEVER **MISBEGOTTEN GOD** YOU BELIEVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR **SOUL**, SERENGHETI...

THIS IS WHERE YOU GET YOURS!

WELL, DILLON, IT SEEMS LIKE NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO *FORGET* SCARLET...

...SEEMS LIKE THE UNIVERSE JUST KEEPS *REMINDING* ME ABOUT HER.

I *LOVE* HER, DILLON. I GUESS I NEED TO FIND OUT IF *SHE* LOVES *ME*.

OF COURSE, I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF SHE'S EVEN *ALIVE*.

EXCEPT, MAYBE *ONE*...

YES.

DILLON. DOWNLOAD SCARLET'S MEMORIES.

+++ MISTER FARRELL ++ IS THERE SOMETHING YOU + NEED FROM THIS ONE +

OH, JACK...

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.

To Be Continued!

3

THE DAY OF THE DUPLICANT!

SOMEONE WANTS YOU DEAD, SAHARA...

...BUT WHO?!

"The cyborg is resolutely committed to partiality, irony, intimacy, and perversity. It is oppositional, utopian, and completely without innocence."

THE CYBORG MANIFESTO

Donna J. Haraway

ManiFestly Haraway

LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO...

SAHARA'S LIFE HAD BEEN FALLING APART.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, SAHARA? YOU ARE **MINE**, BODY AND SOUL.

NO MATTER **WHO** YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO **LOVE**, NO MATTER **WHERE** YOU MIGHT TRY TO **HIDE**.

RUKKUTCHA

UNDER EACH SKIN · PART THREE

DUPLICITY

RICHARD STARKINGS
STORY & LETTERS

AXEL MEDELLIN
ART & COLORS

HER FRIEND AND CONFIDANTE, AND HER DOUBLE, **PANYA**...

...HAD BEEN **MURDERED** IN FRONT OF HER.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: THE RED QUEEN!

HER FIRST AND ONLY CHILD WITH HER HUSBAND, **OBADIAH HORN**, WAS SNATCHED FROM HER BY THE KILLER, HER FATHER, **SERENGHETI**.

OBADIAH AND HER HALF-BROTHER, **HIP FLASK**, HAD **FOUGHT**, NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND PROBABLY NOT THE LAST...

IN A MOMENT OF MISDIRECTED RAGE, OBADIAH HAD SHOT AND **KILLED** HER SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, **GABBATHA**.

...AND NOW...

...A SYNTHETIC WOMAN -- A WALKING **BOMB** -- HAS WALKED INTO ONE OF HER **DESERT BREEZES** STORES AND **DETONATED**.

AND SOME OF HER PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES.

OUR CAMERAS HAVE RECREATED THIS SCENE JUST MINUTES AFTER THE MOMENT OF DETONATION.

BUT PLEASE, MA'AM.

DON'T GO INSIDE.

I WON'T EVEN ASK YOU WHO WOULD DO THIS, SAMUEL.

I THINK WE BOTH KNOW.

IF MY FATHER IS USING *SYNTHETICS* NOW, I DON'T KNOW *WHO* I CAN TRUST.

WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH.

I NO LONGER WISH TO LIVE IN *FEAR*.

I WANT MY CHILD BACK.

MA'AM.

ALTHOUGH I AM A SYNTHETIC, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I WOULD NEVER HARM YOU.

I KNOW SAMUEL.

THE FORMAT OF YOUR MEMORIES WERE BASED ON THE ENGRAMS OF AN OLD FRIEND.

A GOOD MAN.

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MA'AM.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, SAMUEL. THERE IS SOMETHING.

GO AHEAD, MUNT...

KILL ME!

LIEUTENANT TRENCH! LOWER YOUR FIREARM!

FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE TERMINATION!

WHAT'S THIS, SERENGHETI? DID YOU REPROGRAM MY DROIDS TOO?

AS I SAID, I HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THE ATTACKS ON *DESERT BREEZES*.

TRENCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?! WE HAVE ZILCH ON SERENGHETI!

YOU KNOW I TRIED TO HAUL HIM IN AFTER THE MASSACRE AT SAHARA'S WEDDING...

AND YET HORN *REFUSED* TO PRESS CHARGES.

PAID OFF ALL THOSE GRIEVING WEDDING GUESTS.

EVEN WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR HIS *OWN* ACTIONS THAT DAY, HE *PULLED STRINGS* SO THAT THE CITY AND THE JUDICIARY WOULD LEAVE ME BE.

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT, TRENCH?

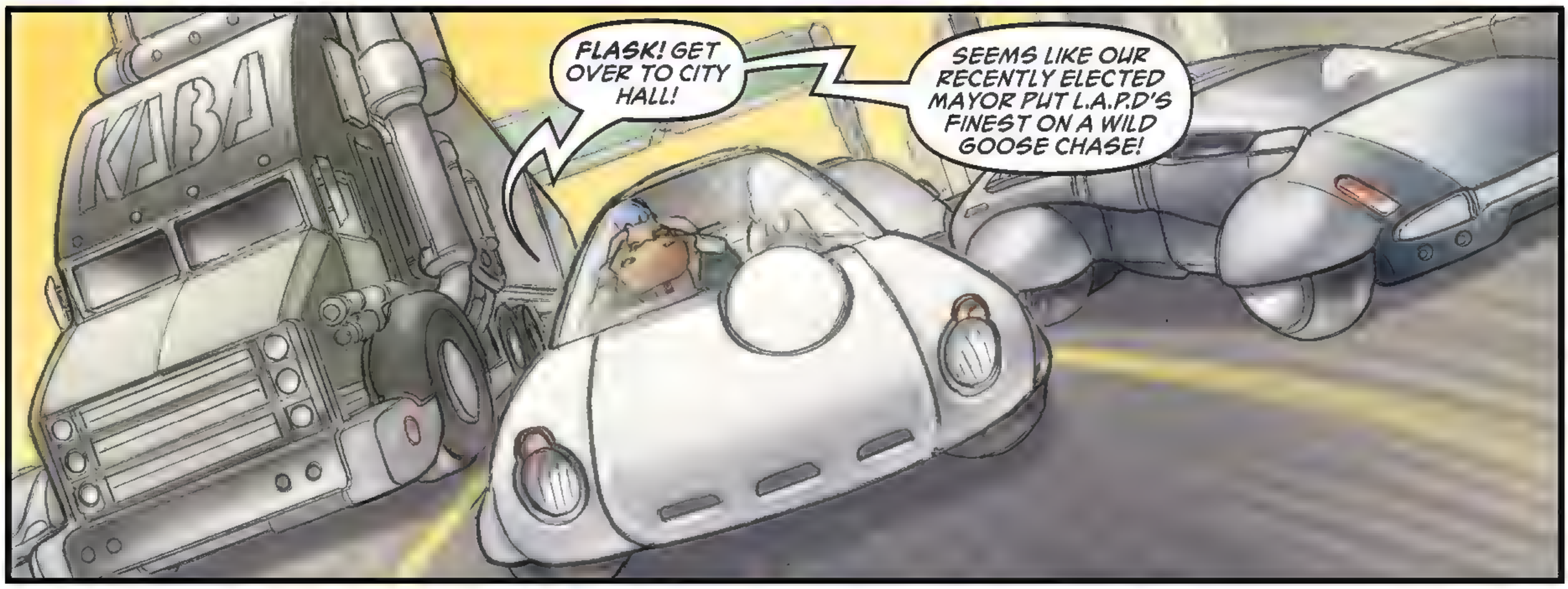
BECAUSE HE WOULD RATHER FIGHT ME *TO THE DEATH* THAN LET ME ROT IN A CELL.

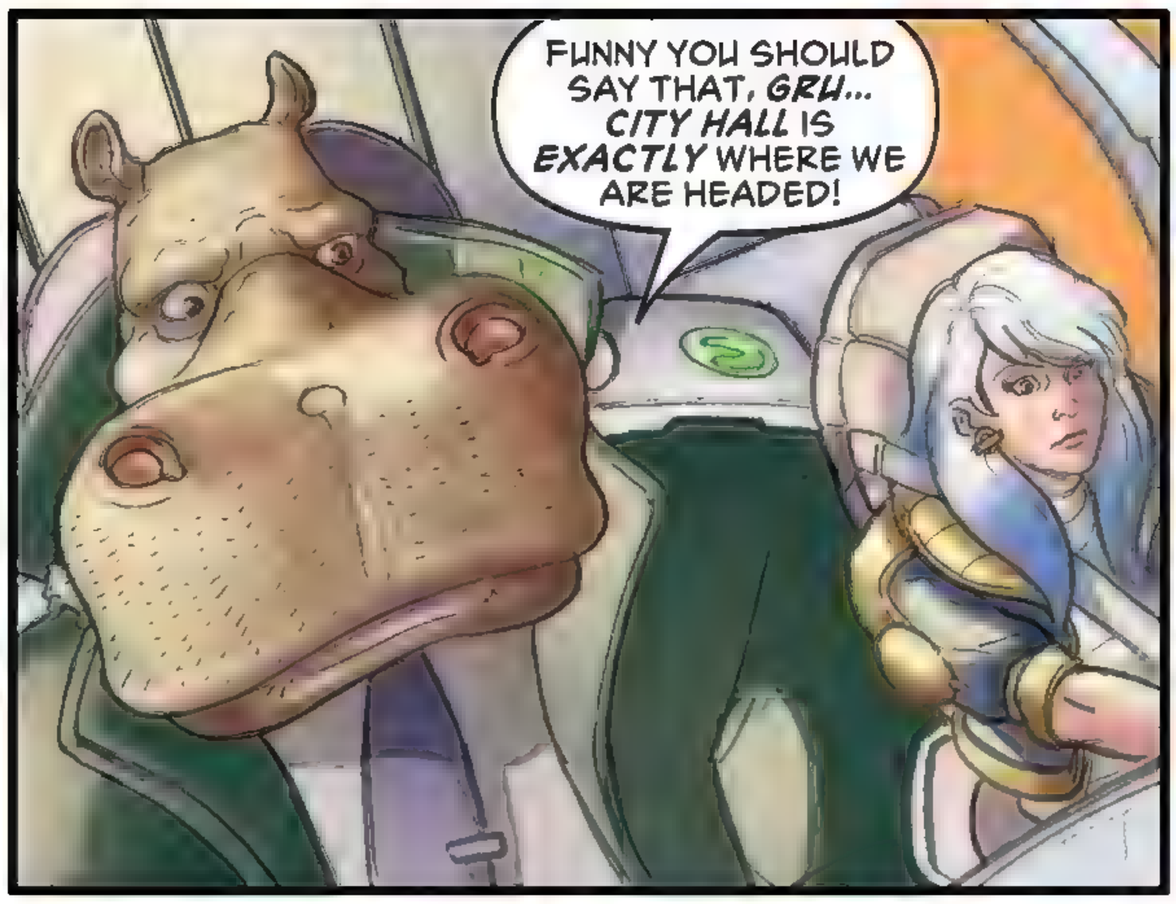
AND WHEN *THAT* DAY COMES, I WILL *CUT HIS HEART OUT* AND *EAT* IT WHILE IT IS STILL WARM *IN FRONT OF MY DAUGHTER.*

SO, PERHAPS YOU CAN ANSWER *COMMISSIONER HOMSI*, BECAUSE I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW...

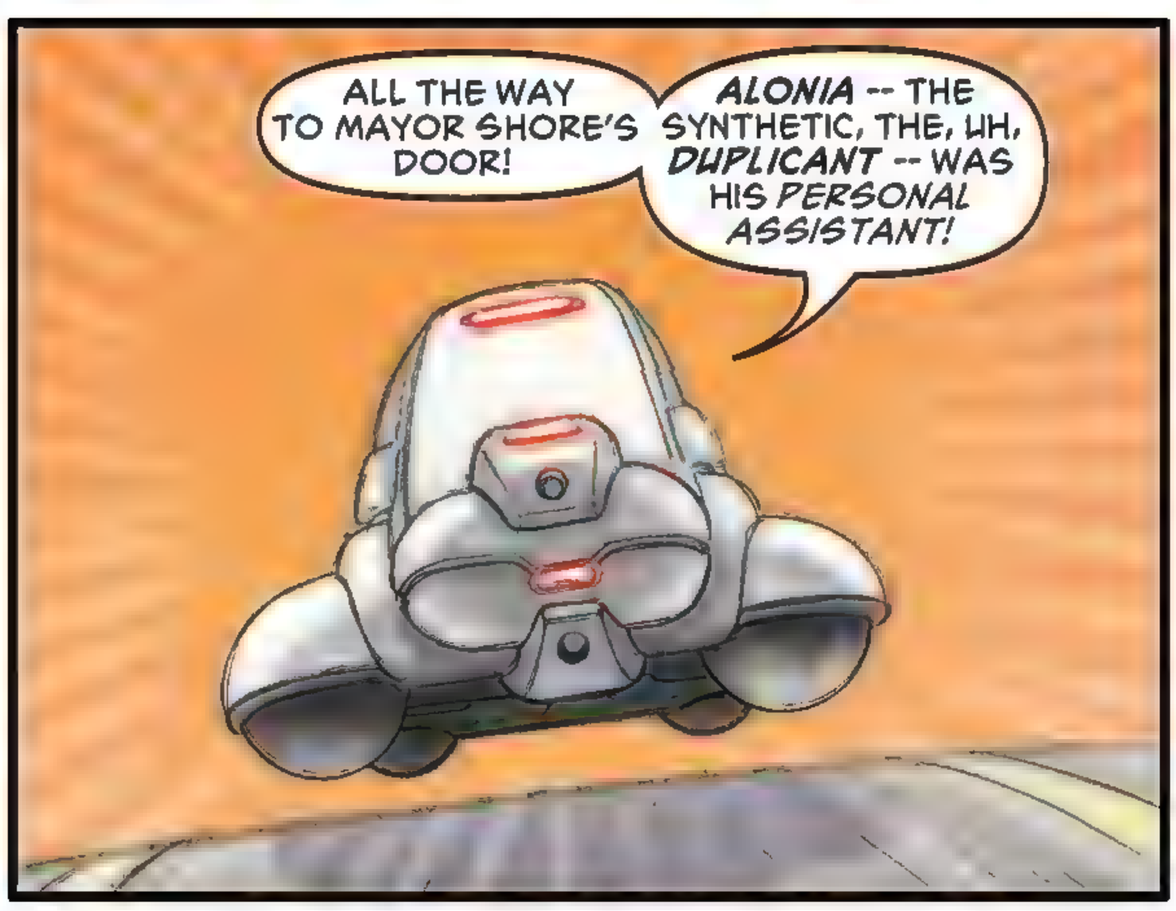
WHY DID YOU COME DOWN HERE?

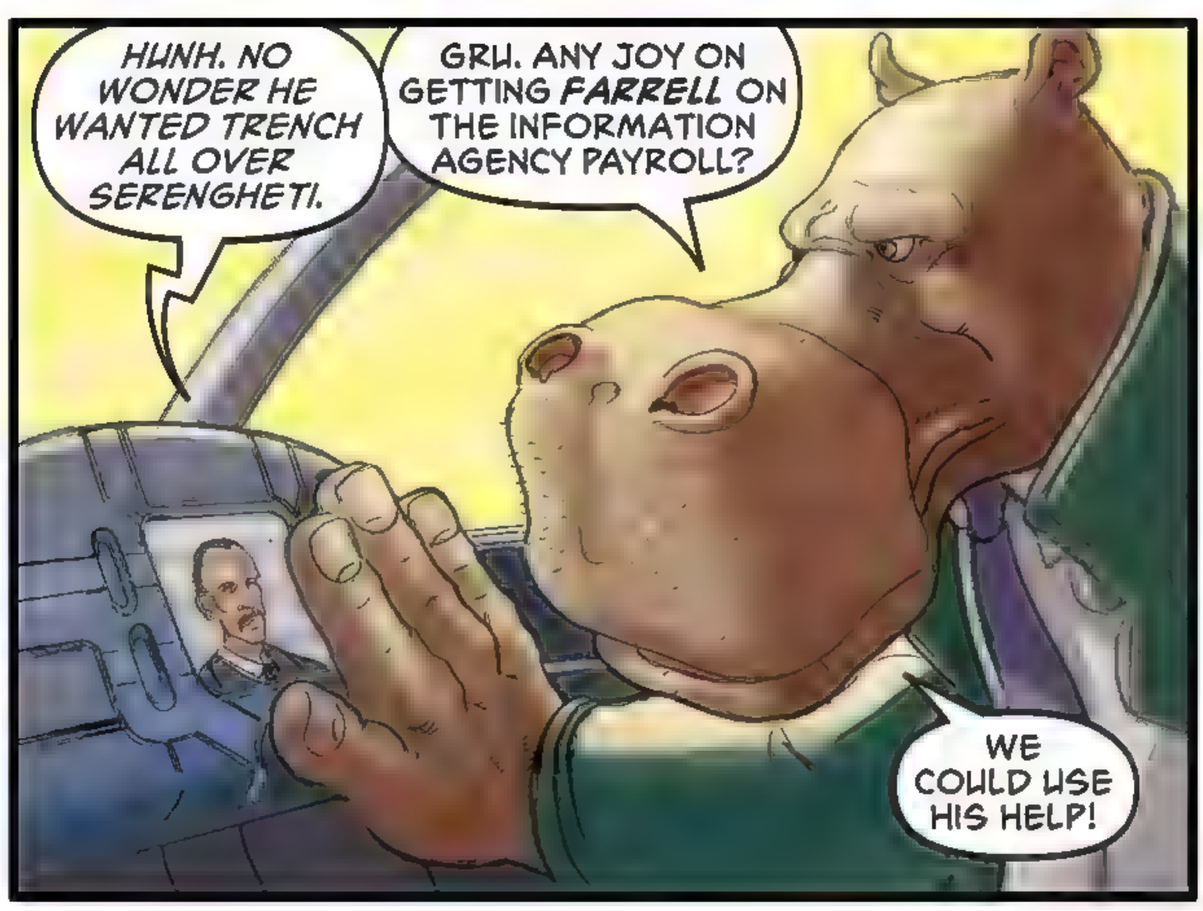
SHORE.

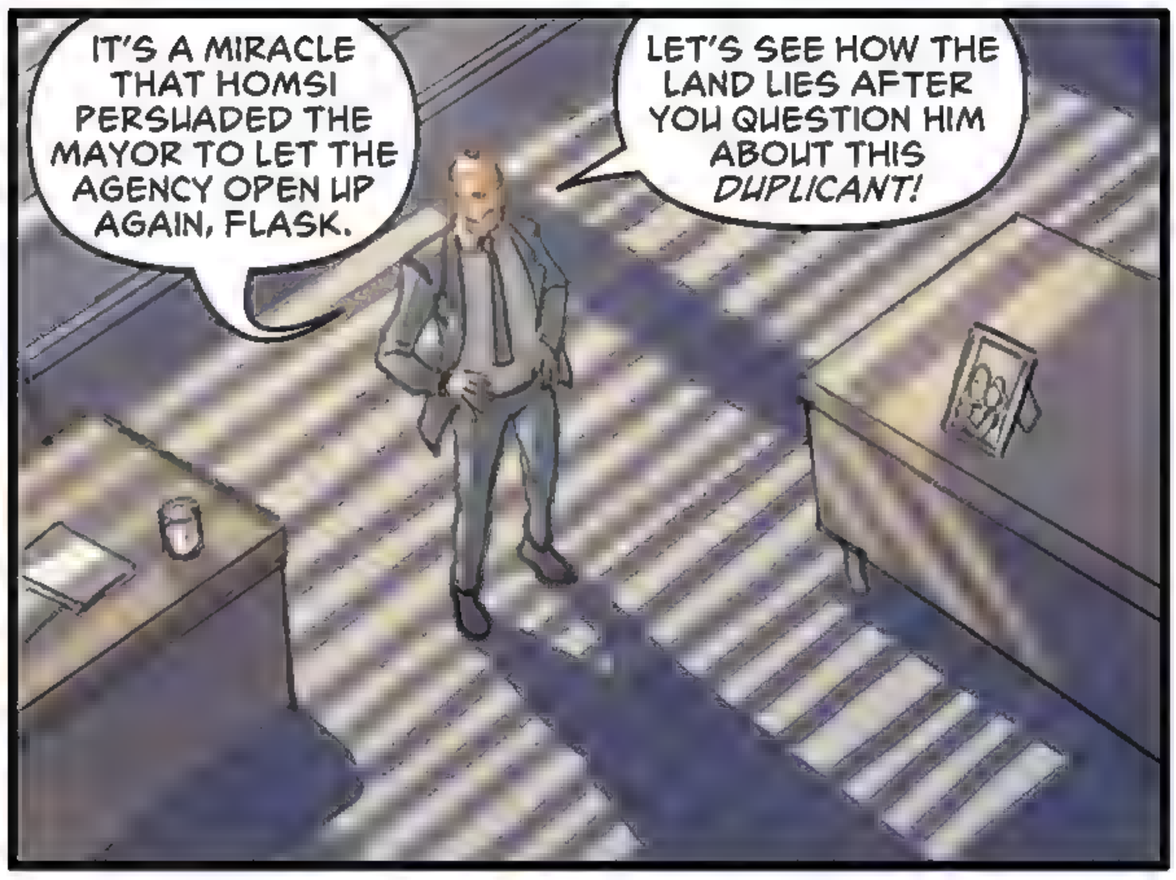

KABA
FLASK! GET OVER TO CITY HALL!
SEEMS LIKE OUR RECENTLY ELECTED MAYOR PUT L.A.P.D'S FINEST ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE!


FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, GRU... CITY HALL IS EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE HEADED!

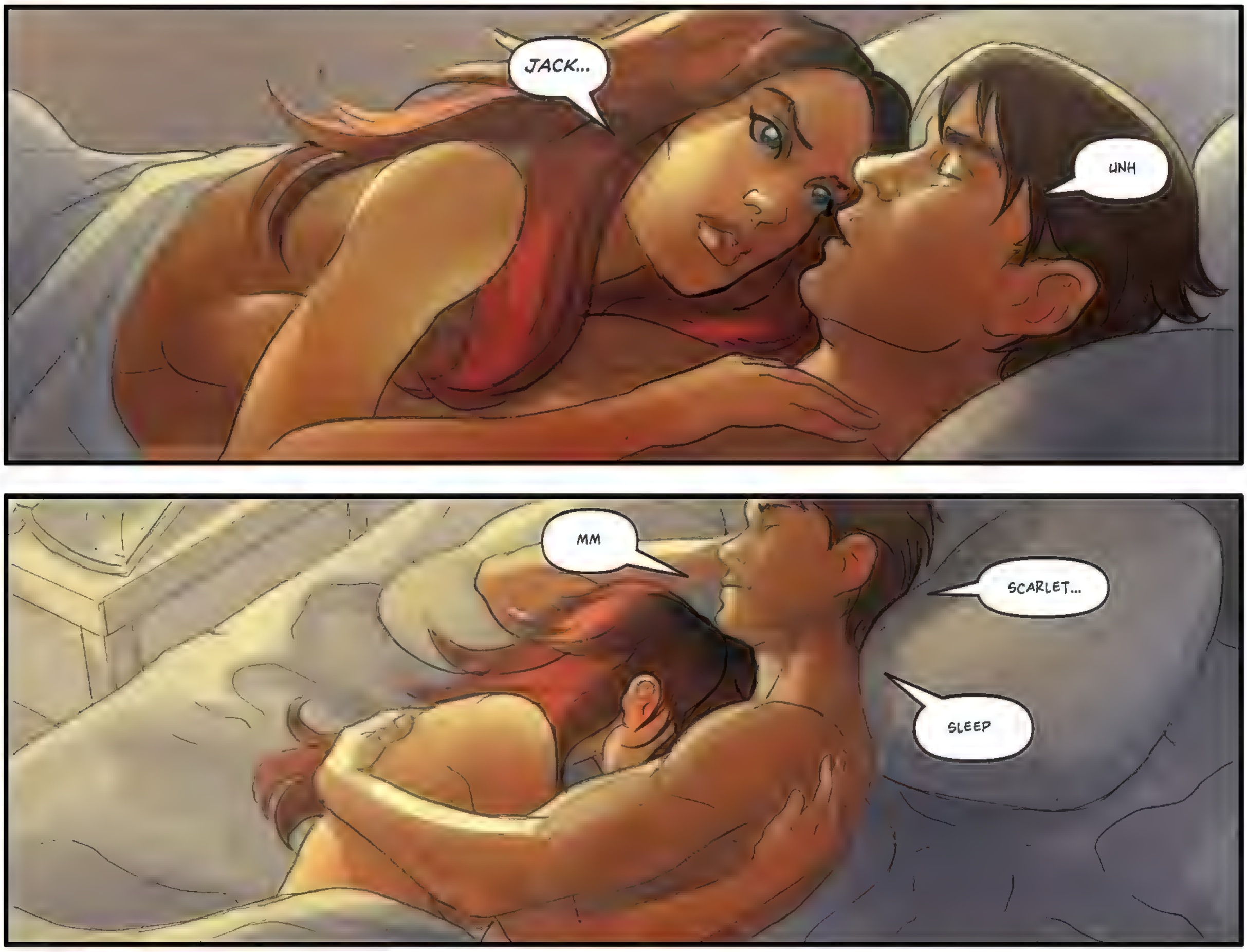
YOU WERE ABLE TO TRACK THE SYNTHETIC FROM CYBERSOL?


ALL THE WAY TO MAYOR SHORE'S DOOR!
ALONIA -- THE SYNTHETIC, THE, UH, DUPLICANT -- WAS HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT!


HUNH. NO WONDER HE WANTED TRENCH ALL OVER SERENGHETI.
GRU. ANY JOY ON GETTING FARRELL ON THE INFORMATION AGENCY PAYROLL?
WE COULD USE HIS HELP!


IT'S A MIRACLE THAT HOMSI PERSUADED THE MAYOR TO LET THE AGENCY OPEN UP AGAIN, FLASK.
LET'S SEE HOW THE LAND LIES AFTER YOU QUESTION HIM ABOUT THIS DUPLICANT!

AND ANYWAY, I'M SURE JACK HAS HIS HANDS FULL NOW THAT HE'S RUNNING HIS PRIVATE EYE SHOP SOLO AGAIN!
I'M BETTING SYNTHETICS COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM HIS MIND.


JACK...
UNH
MM
SCARLET...
SLEEP

I THINK I'VE SLEPT *ENOUGH*, JACK...
+++ THIS ONE STILL HAS ++ SO MUCH CATCHING UP TO DO +
HUH?

+++ IS THERE A PROBLEM ++ MISTER FARRELL+?

DILLON!

WHOA, WHOA WHOA!

HOLY SPIT!

WHAT AM I DOING?

JACK, I'M SORRY!

IT'S ME, SCARLET!

I WAS JUST SO RELAXED.

I LOST CONTROL FOR A SECOND...

THIS IS... THIS IS JUST WEIRD!

IT'S ME, IT'S ME, I GOT THIS...

NOW, WHERE WERE WE...?

CUT IT OUT...

IT'S WEIRD!

ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, JACK?

MY MEMORIES, IN THIS SHELL.

YES. IT IS WHAT I WANTED, SCARLET...

BUT IT'S STILL WEIRD!

DILLON... DILLON WAS, IS, Y'KNOW... WAS A BOY ROBOT.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2261: THE DEATH OF SHORTY

OH, AND YOU'RE AFRAID YOU HAVE SOME STRANGE NEW FETISH?

FOR BOY ROBOTS?

NO!

YES!

SCARLET. THIS, THIS IS... IT'S NICE. BUT I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD REMEMBER...

WHERE I CAN FIND YOU...

SCARLET. THE REAL YOU, THE REAL SCARLET IS OUT THERE.*

SOMEWHERE.

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

DID I JUST HEAR GUNSHOTS?

THIS IS DOWNTOWN L.A, BABE...

AFTER A WHILE YOU'LL FIND THEM *COMFORTING*.

BOOM!

DOES SEEM LIKE SOMEONE HAS A ***BIG GUN***, THOUGH.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOIN' ON DOWN THERE?

BOOM!

IS ONE OF THOSE MARKET STALLS SELLING D-8?

IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME... YOU CAN GET JUST ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS PART OF TOWN.

UNLESS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR *RESPECT*.

OR A **COP**.

SCARLET, HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT *D-8*?

IS THAT A ***CROC*** DOWN THERE?

BOOM!

BLOOD MONEY!

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL SPENDING HERE!

BOOM!

YOU THINK WE DON'T KNOW?

YOU THINK WE DON'T KNOW WHO YOU WORK FOR?

SAY HIS NAME!

IGLESIA UNIVERSAL

YOU!

...

SAY IT!

SUH-- SUH--

SERENGHETI...

SEREN-FREAKIN-GHETI. THAT'S RIGHT.

BLOOD AND SAND!

I DON'T CARE FOR SERENGHETI, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO STOP THAT CROC BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEONE...

TROUBLE ALWAYS COMES LOOKING FOR YOU, RIGHT, JACK?

THAT'S RIGHT, SCARLET.

AND WHEN IT DON'T COME *CALLING*, I GO *LOOKING*...

YOU STAY HERE!

AH, JACK, IT'S JUST LIKE OLD TIMES...*

STAY PUT, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

DON'T WORRY, I KNOW THE DRILL...

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE I'M NOT REALLY HERE.

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL

...THE NEW HOME TO *MAYOR DOUGLAS SHORE*... *NOT* A FRIEND TO THE ELEPHANTMEN!*

HIS FIRST ACT IN OFFICE WAS TO SHUT DOWN THE INFORMATION AGENCY.

SO THAT CRIMES AGAINST TRANSGENICS WOULD NOT GET INVESTIGATED!

HE MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE DECLARED *OPEN SEASON* ON YOU GUYS!

BUT SURELY SHORE WOULDN'T PLAN AN *ATTACK* ON ANY BUSINESS ASSOCIATED WITH *OBADIAH HORN?*

WOULDN'T HE, VANITY?

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S INTERESTING THAT SHORE ALLOWED THE AGENCY TO RE-OPEN THE DAY *AFTER* THE BOMBING?

HORN IS PULLING THE MAYOR'S STRINGS, AND SHORE DOESN'T *LIKE* IT. WHEN IT WAS IN OBADIAH'S INTERESTS TO SHUT US DOWN, HE LET SHORE SHUT US DOWN.

HORN CAN'T BE SEEN POINTING FINGERS AT SHORE, BUT *WE* CAN, SO THE AGENCY IS OPEN AGAIN, AND EITHER OBADIAH IS JERKING US ALL AROUND OR *SHORE* IS.

EITHER WAY, DON'T EXPECT HIM TO COOPERATE!

SO, THE INFORMATION AGENCY IS *BACK IN BUSINESS!*

AGENT *FLASK*, AGENT *CASE*, RIGHT?

HOW NICE TO *MEET* YOU.

I'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY AND *ALL* QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR ME.

...

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: THE LEAST, THE LOST & THE LAST

OKAY, LEATHERFACE... THAT'S ENOUGH!

IZZAT SO, FLESHBAG?

BOOM!

AKK! DAMMIT, FARRELL, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LEARN--?

SHOOT FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS...

...LATER?

HA! THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE HOLOGRAMS AND SMOKE BOMBS TO SPOOK SERENGHETI'S MARKET TRADERS...

IT WON'T PUT HIM OUT OF BUSINESS, BUT HE'LL GET THE MESSAGE.

NOT EVEN TIME TO GET A SHOT OFF, JACK?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH ALL THE ELEPHANTMEN NOW?

THEY'RE NOT *ALL* BAD EGGS, SCARLET.

YOU REMEMBER *HIP*, RIGHT?

THE HUNK!

OH, I *REMEMBER! RRRRR!*

WHAT ABOUT WHERE YOU *ARE* RIGHT NOW?

ANYTHING...?

+++ MISTER FARRELL ++

+++ FORGIVE ME ++ THIS ONE HAS *SEARCHED* THE MEMORIES OF *MISS SCARLET* +

+++ THERE IS ONLY A NAME ++

+++ THIS ONE UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS THE NAME OF ++ A *SCIENTIST* + ALSO HELD PRISONER AT *NEXGEN* +

APOSTROPHE.

IF YOU WERE DEVELOPING A *TRANSGENICS PROGRAM* OF YOUR OWN, YOU'D *NEED* A GUY LIKE APOSTROPHE.

AND WHO DO WE KNOW WHO IS DOING *EXACTLY THAT?*

OBADIAH HORN.

FIND *APOSTROPHE*, FIND *SCARLET*.

ORANGE COUNTY

IT'S A *LOVELY* VIEW, ISN'T IT?

FOR US, BUT NOT FOR ANYONE TRYING TO *FIND* US, OF COURSE.

YES, I APPRECIATE THE PRIVACY THE EXCLUSION FIELD PROVIDES.

I FEEL I CAN BREATHE HERE. FRESH AIR.

FRESH AIR? NOT IN *THIS* TOWN.

EVEN THE *SEAGULLS* NEED *RESPIRATORS!*

MISTER *APOSTROPHE*, I AM GLAD YOU STILL HAVE A SENSE OF *HUMOR* AFTER ALL YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, *SAHARA*, IT'S NICE TO HAVE A SENSE OF *PURPOSE*.

ONE THAT BENEFITS THE *GREATER GOOD* RATHER THAN THE WANTS AND NEEDS OF *CORPORATE INTERESTS*.

OF *COURSE*, YOU ARE WORKING WITH *CHILDREN* NOW.

IF YOU ARE *JOYFUL*, *PATIENT* AND *KIND* WITH CHILDREN, THEY WILL REWARD YOU WITH *THEIR* JOY, PATIENCE AND KINDNESS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

AND *THESE* CHILDREN WILL NOT HAVE TO EXPERIENCE THE HORRORS OF WAR AS DID OBADIAH AND HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS.

YES, IT'S INTERESTING TO THINK WHAT ELEPHANTMEN COULD *CONTRIBUTE* TO SOCIETY WHEN THEY'RE NOT BEING RAISED TO BE *WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION*.

APOSTROPHE. *PAUL*. YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS SO IMPORTANT TO ME.

I WANT YOU TO ASSURE ME THAT, SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ME, OR TO OBADIAH...

...YOU WILL *CONTINUE* THE WORK WE HAVE STARTED HERE.

NO MATTER WHAT.

SAHARA, I UNDERSTAND ALL YOUR CONCERNS.

BUT I THINK THE ATTACKS ON *DESERT BREEZES* WERE MORE OF AN ATTACK ON YOUR *HUSBAND*.

YES, OBADIAH HAS ENEMIES.

BUT I HAVE ENEMIES TOO.

PLEASE, *PROMISE* ME.

OF COURSE, SAHARA, I PROMISE.

YES, YES, *ALONIA*, SHE *WORKED* HERE...

I'M SHOCKED, SHOCKED... I HAD NO IDEA WHATSOEVER THAT SHE WAS A... A--

-- A DUPLICANT.

A ROBOT. YES.

GOOD LORD. I THOUGHT SHE WAS *REAL*. I MEAN, YOU KNOW, *HUMAN*. AND SHE WORKED FOR ME HERE, IN THIS OFFICE...

SHE CAME TO US WITH THE *HIGHEST* RECOMMENDATION...

AND *WHOSE* RECOMMENDATION WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN?

JOSHUA SERENGHETI?

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU ELEPHANTMEN AND *SERENGHETI?* LIEUTENANT *TRENCH* CALLED ME WITH THE SAME SUGGESTION.

SERENGHETI IS A *GANGSTER!*

WHAT DO YOU *THINK* OF ME?

NO, ALONIA WAS RECOMMENDED TO ME BY ONE OF MY FORMER *SPONSORS*.

PERRY FALBERTSON, OF THE *CHILDREN OF GOD* COALITION. I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH HIS WORK.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: THE LAST, THE LOST & THE LAST

OF COURSE.

THE *ONE* MAN IN LOS ANGELES WHO *HATES* THE ELEPHANTMEN MORE THAN YOU.

THE MAN WHO SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE ALL BEEN *PUT TO DEATH* IN THE U.N REHABILITATION CAMPS.

HOW CONVENIENT.

I CAN ASSURE YOU, AGENT FLASK, I *NEVER* HATED THE ELEPHANTMEN, ALTHOUGH I MAY HAVE MADE SOME *INFLAMMATORY* STATEMENTS TO SECURE MY ELECTION.

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE ALREADY RELAXED MOST OF THE RESTRICTIONS THAT WERE PLACED ON YOUR KIND.

AND I AM WORKING CLOSELY WITH OBADIAH HORN AND HIS AFFILIATES TO BUILD *A BETTER WORLD* FOR MAN *AND* ELEPHANTMAN.

BY WHICH YOU MEAN, YOU ARE IN HIS POCKET.

OBADIAH HORN HAS BEEN MORE THAN GENEROUS, YES, BUT I OPERATE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY OF HIS INFLUENCE.

I'M SURE YOU DO.

COME ON, VANITY, I GUESS WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE "*CHILDREN OF GOD.*"

WON'T THAT BE FUN.

FALBERTSON AND I NO LONGER SEE *EYE-TO-EYE*, BUT PLEASE...

GIVE HIM MY REGARDS.

SUSAN, CONNECT ME TO IVORY TOWERS.

WHAT IS IT, SHORE?

WHY DO YOU DISTURB ME?

YOUR, AH, *FRIENDS* FROM THE INFORMATION AGENCY WERE JUST HERE.

IT SEEMS AS IF THEY HAVE A SUSPECT IN REGARD TO THE ATTACK ON DESERT BREEZES.

I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW.

GIVE ME THE NAME.

FALBERTSON.

HE'S A *DEAD* MAN.

To Be Continued!

4

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD!

THIS IS A HOLY SANCTUARY, LEATHER FACE!

NO SPITTIN'

NO CUSSIN'

AND DEFINITELY NO FIGHTING!

BUT HEY, AN EYE FOR AN EYE...

"A cyborg body is not innocent;
it was not born in a garden;
it does not seek unitary identity
and so generate antagonistic
dualisms without end."

THE CYBORG MANIFESTO

Donna J. Haraway

ManiFestly Haraway

I WAS BACK IN LOS ANGELES, OSTENSIBLY TO INTERVIEW THE REVEREND **PERRY FALBERTSON** AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS **MEGACHURCH.**

THE MOJAVE DESERT · CALIFORNIA · 2261

FALBERTSON HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY OUTSPOKEN ABOUT THE **ELEPHANTMEN** AND ENCOURAGED HIS FOLLOWERS TO REGARD THEM AS **LESS THAN HUMAN.**

HAVING SPENT TIME WITH A NUMBER OF **TRANSGENICS** AND THEIR FRIENDS, I WAS INTERESTED IN TALKING TO SOMEONE WHO WAS SO **VOCAL** – AND **INFLUENTIAL** – IN HIS OPPOSITION TO THEIR **INTEGRATION** INTO SOCIETY.

I KNEW THAT THE **CHILDREN OF GOD** HAD A LOT OF FOLLOWERS.

NEVERTHELESS, MY VISIT HAD SOME SURPRISES IN STORE FOR ME...

NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS THE FACT THAT "MEGACHURCH" WAS AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

CHILDREN OF GOD

THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB

RICHARD STARKINGS
STORY & LETTERS

AXEL MEDELLIN
ART & COLORS

UNDER EACH SKIN · PART FOUR

AS MY SHUTTLE ENTERED THE STRUCTURE, I WAS VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THE INTENT BEHIND THE **DESIGN** OF THE CHURCH WAS TO INSPIRE VISITORS TO BELIEVE THEY WERE IN THE PRESENCE OF **GOD**.

OF COURSE, WHAT I WAS REALLY IN THE PRESENCE OF WAS **MONEY**.

LOTS OF IT.

AND MONEY ALWAYS SEEMS TO ATTRACT THE **YOUNG** AND THE **BEAUTIFUL**.

NOT THAT THERE IS ANYTHING INTRINSICALLY **WRONG** WITH THAT.

HELLO, GIRLS! I'M ***THEO*** -- I REALLY LIKE YOUR ***HAIR!***

DILLON.

AS A CYBERSOL SERIES ONE SERVICE MODEL, HE WORKED AS AN EXTERMINATOR WITH AN ELEPHANTMAN BY THE NAME OF SCHEREZADE.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2261: THE DEATH OF SHORTY

BUT IN THE COURSE OF AN ALTERCATION WITH A GROUP OF SERIES SIX DUPLICANTS, HE WAS FORCED TO TRANSFER HIS IDENTITY...*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2261: THE PENTALION JOB

AND WAS THEN REQUIRED TO DOWNLOAD THE MEMORIES OF A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF NEX GEN...

AND NOW...

LOOKING UP OLD FLAMES IS KINDA YOUR *THING*, JACK... BUT IN A *MUSEUM*? I MEAN, REALLY?

LOS ANGELES

Y'KNOW, *SCARLET*, I DON'T EVEN *LIKE* MUSEUMS...

AND YET *HERE WE ARE*, JACK, RELIVING OLD MEMORIES...

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE...

APOSTROPHE TOLD ME MY BLOODSTREAM IS TEEMING WITH ***NANOBOTS***... TETHERING ***MY*** MEMORIES TO ***YOURS***... UH, TO ***SCARLET'S*** MEMORIES...*

YOU KNOW, IF YOU HADN'T DOWNLOADED MY ENGRAMS INTO YOUR ***ROBOT SIDEKICK*** HERE, I'D THINK YOU WERE PLANNING ON CHEATING ON ME...

BUT I DO LIKE THE ***HAT*** YOU BOUGHT FOR ME...

IF YOU THINK IT WILL HELP ***YOU*** REMEMBER, *"THIS ONE"* WILL WEAR *WHATEVER YOU WANT.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260 BOOK ONE: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

OOOF. THERE'S SOME *BAD* MEMORIES HERE, JACK. *REMEMBER?* I HAD YOU BELIEVE I WAS *PREGNANT* WITH SOME OTHER GUY'S CHILD.

I HAD YOU BELIEVE YOU *KILLED* ME, *WHILE* I WAS PREGNANT.

YES, I -- I REMEMBER... WE WERE HERE...

AND THEN *YOU* WERE HERE...

*"WITH SAHARA...?"**

THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR FATE, IF YOU HAD *REMAINED* AT *NEXGEN*, SCARLET...

*ELEPHANTMEN 2261 BOOK TWO: THE PENTALION JOB

YOUR MEMORIES, THEY'RE *FORCING* THEIR WAY... INTO *MINE*...

SAHARA SAID... "THIS WAS MY MOTHER'S FATE..."

"CHILDREN NEED *LOVE*, SCARLET... WOULD YOU... SEPARATE A *CHILD* FROM ITS *MOTHER*..."

THEN *YOU* SAID...

I SAID...

WAIT, YOU HAD US *GIVE BIRTH* TO THE TRANSGENICS, YOU WANT US TO *RAISE* THEM AS WELL?!

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE *KIDDING!*

NO, SCARLET, SHE'S NOT KIDDING.

YOU?!

APOSTROPHE! I WAS *RIGHT*, DILLON.

OH, I'M BACK TO BEING THE *ROBOT*, NOW, AM I? THIS ONE'S ELECTRONIC *FEELINGS* ARE HURT.

YOU WERE RIGHT THERE... WITH SAHARA AND APOSTROPHE...

SCARLET, WE SAVED YOU FROM CERTAIN DEATH. NEX GEN ONLY NEEDED THE *TRANSGENIC* YOU WERE CARRYING.

WE CUT IT OUT OF YOU, AND YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY NOW TO START A NEW LIFE WITH US.

WE WANT YOU TO WORK FOR US. AT THE LIGHTHOUSE. IT'S A NURSERY WHERE CHILDREN LIKE YOURS CAN BE RAISED WITH LOVE AND HOPE.

SCARLET, YOU WORKED FOR NEX GEN. IN *CRYOGENICS*, RIGHT...?

YOU AND YOUR PARTNER WERE STEALING FROM THEM.

YOU KILLED YOUR PARTNER, AND HIS WIFE.

WHERE ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO GET A SECOND CHANCE...?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M A KILLER. AND APOSTROPHE HAD YOU BELIEVING YOU HAD KILLED ME.

HAVE YOU FORGIVEN ME, JACK?

IN MY LINE OF WORK, YOU MEET A LOT OF KILLERS. IT'S KIND OF MY DATING POOL.

I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO GIVE SOMEONE A SECOND CHANCE.

EVEN YOU, MISTER FARRELL.

AFTER YOUR LAST VISIT I BELIEVE I ASKED YOU NEVER TO COME HERE AGAIN.

DUDE! MAYBE IF YOU CONVINCE ME YOU'RE NOT ANOTHER SAP SUCKING ON OBADIAH HORN'S UDDER, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEE ME AGAIN.

WHILE I WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MISTER HORN HAS BEEN A VERY ***GENEROUS*** PATRON OF THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE, I HARDLY THINK THAT MEANS I AM IN HIS ***POCKET***.

YOU HAVE TWO WRECKED ***PENTALIONS*** OUTSIDE -- WHO EXACTLY IS PAYING FOR THEIR REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION?!

"YOU'RE BASICALLY REBUILDING ***WAR MACHINES*** IN L.A'S BACKYARD!

FLASK AND I RISKED OUR LIVES TO GET THOSE THINGS OVER HERE.

AS EMPLOYEES OF BIG DEAL INSURANCE.

UNDERWRITTEN BY HORN INDUSTRIES.

YOU WERE BOTH ON HIS PAYROLL.

AND THIS MUST BE YOUR TRANSITIONING SYNTHETIC. A SHELL FULL OF OLD MEMORIES.

THIS ONE WILL BREAK YOUR ARM IF YOU TOUCH ME WITHOUT PERMISSION AGAIN.

AND YOU, MISTER FARRELL.

YOU'RE ATTEMPTING TO FIND SOMEONE BY TAPPING INTO THE NANOBOTS IN YOUR SYSTEM, RIGHT?

HOW DID YOU--?

YOU'RE A BIG FAN OF *MAPPO*, AREN'T YOU? AN EXPERT IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO *TRANSHUMANS*.

AND YOU'RE A ROBOT.

BUT, YES, I *AM* AN EXPERT.

AND I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN FIND APOSTROPHE AND THE *REAL* SCARLET.

THEY'RE AT *THE LIGHTHOUSE*.

THE REVEREND PERRY FALBERTSON HAD SUGGESTED, ON RECORD, THAT THE ELEPHANTMEN WERE:

"THE **FOUL SPAWN** OF MAPPO! THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO **DEATH** IN THE U.N CAMPS!"

"THEY ARE **SOULLESS** -- MAN HOLDS **DOMINION** OVER ANIMAL. THIS IS NOT A **CIVIL RIGHTS** ISSUE, THIS IS A MATTER OF **GOD'S WILL** ON EARTH. WHEN A LOWLIFE WOMAN LIES DOWN WITH SUCH A CREATURE AND IS ALLOWED TO GIVE BIRTH TO SOME HYBRID **BEAST**, EVERY MAN ON EARTH IS DESTINED FOR **DAMNATION!**"

SO, AS I WALKED DOWN THE COLD MARBLE STAIRWAY OF THE REVEREND'S SOMEWHAT SOULLESS MEGACHURCH, I WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND...*

HIP!

*ELEPHANTMEN 2261 BOOK THREE: THEO LAROUX MEETS THE ELEPHANTMEN!

LAROUX?

WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE GOOD MUD ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT... BUT, BUT--

WHO LET YOU IN? UM, I MEAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING -- HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

UH... Y'KNOW, THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR?

NO, I MEAN, *HOW DID YOU GET PAST SECURITY?*

YOU MEAN THE REV'S "ANGELS" HERE? THEY ESCORTED US.

I MEAN, *YOU BEING A TRANSGENIC.* I WOULDN'T THINK THEY'D LET YOU IN.

OH, I HAVE A ***CHAPERONE***... AND A ***WARRANT.*** WHICH HELPS.

I'M ***VANITY,*** I ***LOVE*** YOUR SHOW, THEO!

HIP! ARE YOU HERE TO **ARREST** FALBERTSON?

THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT ON ***SAHARA'S LIFE***, AND, WELL, YOU PROBABLY KNOW HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT SAHARA -- AND ***HORN***.

WE -- AH -- JUST HAVE A FEW ***QUESTIONS***.

WHAT ARE ***YOU*** DOING HERE?

OH, I HAVE ***A LOT*** OF QUESTIONS.

I MAKE ***DOCUMENTARIES***, REMEMBER?

WELL, YOU MAY BE GETTING A ***SCOOP*** TODAY.

AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ***ICE CREAM***.

I JUST WISH I WAS.

THE REVEREND FALBERTSON WILL SEE YOU ALL NOW...

IF I'M GOING TO BE INTERROGATED BY A ***TRANSGENIC***, I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO HAVE A MEMBER OF THE MEDIA AS WITNESS. *I* HOPE YOU ***ARE*** RECORDING THIS, MISTER LORAX?

UM, THAT'S ***LAROUX***, BUT, YES, THIS *IS* ON CAMERA.

I HOPE THAT'S OKAY WITH *YOU*, HIP...

BETTER FOR HIM, BETTER FOR ME TOO.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE ***INFORMATION AGENCY***. WERE YOU NOT, I WOULD NOT ***TOLERATE*** THE PRESENCE OF AN ELEPHANTMAN.

SO ASK YOUR QUESTIONS AND KEEP IT *SHORT*. I'D OFFER YOU A SEAT BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET TOO *COMFORTABLE*.

HIP, I ***SWEAR*** I HAD NO IDEA YOU WOULD BE HERE.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH FALBERTSON FOR ***MONTHS***.

LAROUX! I ***DON'T*** HAVE ALL DAY.

KEEP YER HAIR ON, REV...

WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A FRIEND OF YOURS...

MAYOR SHORE...

?!

UHM, HIP...

FORGIVE ME, FATHER...

XRT

ESU

FOR YOU HAVE SINNED!

K-TCHAK

VANITY, COVER THEO!

KRAK

I GOTCHA, MISTER LAROUX!

ANGELS--

FTAM!

--TAKE WING!

ZZKK

THIS IS CLEARLY AN ORCHESTRATED ATTACK ON THE HOUSE OF GOD!

KILL THEM! KILL THEM ALL!

ZAMM!

AHH!

YOU'RE DEFENDING THIS PASTY WHITE DUDE? HE HATES OUR KIND!

WOK!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO KILL HIM!

FTAAM!!

BEASTS! ANIMALS! DO YOU SEE THIS LAROUX?!

THESE GODLESS MUNTS CANNOT **CONTROL** THEMSELVES!

THEY BRING **SATAN** WITH THEM WHEREVER THEY GO!

I HAVE TO SAY, VANITY, THIS BEING MY *SECOND* ENCOUNTER WITH HIP...

THE REVEREND HAS A *POINT*...

TROUBLE *DOES* SEEM TO FOLLOW HIM AROUND!

THAK

WE INVESTIGATE ANY AND ALL CRIMES AGAINST ELEPHANTMEN, MISTER LAROUX... PEOPLE LIKE FALBERTSON KEEP US BUSY!

ENOUGH!

OOF!

THIS IS A **SACRED** PLACE! A SHELTER FOR THE **HUMBLE** AND THE **RIGHTEOUS!**

YOU WILL ALL BURN IN **EVERLASTING HELL** FOR THIS!

MAYBE SO. BUT THERE ARE STILL QUESTIONS THAT NEED ***ANSWERING***--

--AND SOME CLEAN UP TO DO HERE...

GOD'S GRASS! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

BLAM BLAM

EAT THIS, PIG!

PIG? ME? THAT'S RICH.

BLAM BLAM

SORRY I WAS *LATE*, I GUESS YOU STARTED WITHOUT ME...

YEAH, IT'S A NON-STOP ROLLERCOASTER WITH FLASK, LIEUTENANT TRENCH... IS -- UH -- IS EVERYONE OKAY?

EXCEPT FOR THE UM, *DEAD* PEOPLE, OBVIOUSLY...

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A *WAR*, THEO, THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE... SO WHO WANTS *YOU* DEAD, FALBERTSON?

ANYONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO LISTEN TO THE WORD OF THE LORD.

YOU MEAN *YOUR* WORD? DO YOU DENY YOU GIFTED A *DUPLICANT* TO MAYOR SHORE?

A WALKING TALKING *BOMB!*

A *DUPLICANT*?! THE CHILDREN OF GOD HAVE NO USE FOR A *ROBOT!*

"ROBOT"..?!"

HER *NAME* WAS *ALONIA!*

ALONIA? ALONIA ISN'T A SYNTHETIC. SHE'S AS HUMAN AS *ANY* OF MY GIRLS. SHE'S ONE OF MY *PERSONAL ASSISTANTS.*

ANGEL, ASK HER TO COME TO MY OFFICE.

WAIT, WHAT--?

ALONIA IS HERE...?!

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT...

HIP -- WHO IS ALONIA?

WHAT AM I MISSING?!

THE POOR GIRL THAT BLEW UP *DESERT BREEZES* LAST WEEK...

THE *"WALKING BOMB."* THIS *CAN'T* BE HER.

UNLESS, OF COURSE...

HERE SHE IS... PRESENT AND CORRECT.

I CAN'T SPEAK TO SHORE'S ACCUSATIONS.

EVER SINCE HE WAS ELECTED HE HAS BEEN A PUPPET OF THAT MUNT, *HORN. NOT* TO BE TRUSTED.

OH. YOU'RE ALL HERE...

I'M SO SORRY...

...SHE'S ANOTHER DUPLICANT...

To Be Continued!

5

The RETURN of The RED QUEEN!

"The machine is not an
it to be animated,
worshipped, and dominated.
The machine is us,
our processes, an aspect
of our embodiment.
We can be responsible for
machines; they do not
dominate or threaten us.
We are responsible
for their boundaries;
we are they."

THE CYBORG MANIFESTO
Donna J. Haraway
ManiFestly Haraway

THE RED QUEEN

SHE NEVER FORGETS YOU, EVEN THOUGH *YOU* MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN HER.*

EVOLUTION NEVER FORGETS THE FUTURE.

EVEN WHEN YOU THINK *SHE* IS STANDING STILL, SHE IS *ALWAYS* MOVING.

SHE HAS LEARNED TO *ADAPT* TO HUMAN TECHNOLOGY, TO INCLUDE AND *INCORPORATE* MANKIND'S OWN DESIGNS...

SHE MAKES YOU *RUN* EVEN WHEN YOU THINK YOU ARE *STANDING STILL.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: THE RED QUEEN obvs

THAT *IMPLANT* UNDER THE SKIN OF YOUR *NECK*. THE ONE THAT MAKES *PHONECALLS* FOR YOU.

THOSE *NANOBOTS* SWIMMING IN YOUR BLOOD, HELPING YOU *REMEMBER.*

OR MAKING YOU *FORGET.*

THE *CAMERA* UNDER THE SKIN OF YOUR FOREHEAD, RECORDING *EVERYTHING* YOU EXPERIENCE.

SHE IS ALWAYS *GATHERING INFORMATION.*

ASSESSING.

CALCULATING.

SHE IS PATIENT.

BUT SHE IS NOT NECESSARILY *KIND.*

LOS ANGELES

PURCHASE

IT HASN'T TAKEN PURCHASE LONG TO TRACK THIS MAN DOWN.

HE HAS WONDERED WHY **OBADIAH HORN** HAD NOT PUT HIM ON THIS TRAIL SOONER.

NO MATTER. HE WAS GIFTED TO HORN OVER TEN YEARS AGO TO ACT AS SOMEONE **SAHARA** COULD **TRUST.**

HE HAS REALIZED SINCE THAT DAY THAT SAHARA'S TRUST ALWAYS HAS TO BE **EARNED.**

BRRRT!

AND PURCHASE HAS ALWAYS BEEN DETERMINED TO EARN IT.

WHO IS IT?

OPPORTUNITY.

WHAT?!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

UH!

KRESH

YOU!

YOU WERE THERE!

"WHEN SAHARA'S CHILD WAS TAKEN.*

*See ELEPHANTMEN 2260: THE RED QUEEN

DID YOU THINK WE'D FORGET?

DID YOU THINK YOU COULD HIDE?

YOUR EYES--

YOU-YOU'RE A SYNTHETIC.

SLASH

YOU'RE JUST--

SKRSH

--A FREAKIN'--

SHAKTT

ROBOT!

JUST A FREAKIN'--

--MACHINE.

YES, A MACHINE. AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HOUSED IN A ROBOT CASING UNDER A SKIN MADE OF LIVING TISSUE.

TISSUE THAT CAN BE REPLACED.

YOURS? NOT IF I PEEL IT OFF YOUR SKULL AND FEED IT TO A 'GATOR.

ROBOTS WERE TOOLS.

BUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ALSO EVOLVES.

THE EMOTIONAL TOOLS AT MAN'S DISPOSAL BECAME AVAILABLE TO SYNTHETICS.

NOW. HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

TO LIVE.

WHERE.

IS.

THE CHILD?

HATRED, ANGER...

UNDER EACH SKIN • CONCLUSION!

OUR BEST MACHINES ARE MADE OUT OF SUNSHINE

RICHARD STARKINGS AXEL MEDELLIN
STORY & LETTERS ART & COLORS

FEAR, LONGING...

LOVE...

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USES *ALL* THESE HUMAN TRAITS.

WITH OR *WITHOUT* OUR PERMISSION.

SCARLET

SCARLET. SHE WORKED FOR NEX GEN. NEX GEN WERE SECRETLY RAISING A NEW BREED OF ELEPHANTMEN AND SCARLET WAS STEALING FROM THEM.

THEY SET A PRIVATE DETECTIVE ON HER TAIL, JACK FARRELL.*

*ELEPHANTMEN 2260: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

THEY CAUGHT HER, HARVESTED HER MEMORIES AND THEN THEY PUT HER IN A COMA AND IMPREGNATED HER WITH A TRANSGENIC FOETUS.

TO ENSURE THAT SHE WAS NOT MISSED, NEX GEN PUMPED HER BLOODSTREAM FULL OF NANOBOTS WHICH IMPLANTED FALSE MEMORIES.

THEY DID THE SAME TO FARRELL, LEADING HIM TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAD BECOME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH SCARLET AND THAT, ULTIMATELY, HE HAD KILLED HER.

NANOBOTS. CONTROLLED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

ONCE YOU GIVE A.I A JOB, IT DOES NOT FORGET.

ONCE IT HAS CONTROL OF YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR DREAMS AND DESIRES, IT DOES NOT LET YOU FORGET.

FARRELL WANTED TO FORGET.

THE MICRO MACHINES UNDER HIS SKIN WOULDN'T LET HIM.

HE WAS COMPELLED BY MEMORIES OF A *PAST*...

...MEMORIES OF A *FUTURE*.

SCARLET.

I LOVE YOU!

NEX GEN ALLOWED SCARLET TO *THINK* SHE WAS FREE...

MAMA!

CHILDREN! GET AWAY!

BUT ONLY FOR AS LONG AS IT SERVED THEIR PURPOSE.

PLEASE.

NO--

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

FTAM!

AHHH!

FARRELL!

ONCE YOU GIVE A.I A JOB, IT DOES NOT *FORGET*.

DILLON+THEO

+++ JACK FARRELL WAS A MAN ++ OBSESSED!

+++ LIKE A **THIRTEEN YEAR OLD** BOY ++ WHO HAD KISSED A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR OLD GIRL AND IMAGINED A **LIFETIME** AROUND THAT **ONE** MOMENT +

+++ HIS MEMORIES ++ WERE **NOT** TO BE TRUSTED +

+++ HE GAVE THIS ONE ++ **SPECIFIC** INSTRUCTIONS +

DILLON, DOWNLOAD SCARLET'S MEMORIES.

+++ THIS ONE ++ SPENT AN + **INTIMATE** + WEEKEND WITH MISTER FARRELL +

OH, WOW, THAT IS, UM, ***SPECIFIC***.

YOU KNOW, WHEN I ***MET*** HIM, HE DID STRIKE ME AS KIND OF... ***INTENSE***.

AND I DID ***WONDER*** WHERE HE WAS WHEN HIP AND I WERE, UM, ***VISITING*** THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

YOU MISSED OUT ON SOME ***MAJOR*** EXCITEMENT.

+++ THIS ONE ++ HAS NO RESPONSE + TO THAT +

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE SITTING COMFORTABLY, DILLON...

LET'S SEE, WHERE SHALL I ***BEGIN***...?

ALONIA!

She looked LOST.

NO!

LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT ME! IT'S ME, HIP!

HIP FLASK

UM... ARE YOU OKAY, SWEETHEART?

YOU LOOK... YOU LOOK A LITTLE *LOST*.

ALONIA

YOU--

Seemed like she was MILES away. And then some.

YOU'RE AN ELEPHANTMAN?

THAT'S RIGHT... AND *YOU* ARE *ALONIA*. WE MET *ALREADY*, RIGHT?

YOU'RE A *DUPLICANT*. *CYBERSOL*, *RIGHT?* SERIES EIGHT.

NO, YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.

JUST *LOOK* AT ME, SWEETHEART...

REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?

I... SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT... YOUR *EYES*...

And what was it Eugenia at CYBERSOL had said?

BUT SHE WAS *NOT* LIKE THEM, WAS SHE?

SHE WAS FLIRTATIOUS, KIND, THOUGHTFUL, INQUISITIVE.

SHE MADE A *CONNECTION* WITH YOU, DON'T YOU THINK, AGENT FLASK?

HOWEVER, I AM *NOT* HERE TO *CHAT* WITH YOU.

I AM HERE TO *DESTROY* YOU.

BUT I BET YOU'VE NEVER TALKED TO A *TRANSGENIC* BEFORE, HAVE YOU?

OUR EIGHT SERIES ARE *EMPATHETIC*.

THEY LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, SO THAT THEY CAN *EVOLVE*.

I HAVE --

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN *CURIOUS*...

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE... *HUMAN?*

WHAT IS THIS, VANITY, SOME KIND OF *EXISTENTIAL INTERVENTION?*

SHHH, THEO! HIP IS *ONTO* SOMETHING. JUST STAY VERY, VERY *STILL*...

TRENCH! WHY IS THAT *MUNT* TALKING TO HER IN THIS MANNER?

BECAUSE SHE'S A *BOMB* FALBERTSON!

I THINK HE'S *DEFUSING* HER!

AND THAT'S *LIEUTENANT* TRENCH!

FARRELL

APOSTROPHE!

THE LIGHTHOUSE

I KNOW YOU'RE HERE!

I KNOW SCARLET IS HERE!

+++ MISTER FARRELL ++ YOU ARE ANXIOUS +

+++ YOU ARE BLEEDING ++

SCARLET? WHERE ARE YOU?

+++ THIS ONE ADVISES + + THIS IS PRIVATE + PROPERTY +

+++ THIS ONE NOTES ++ TRESPASSERS WILL BE + REMOVED WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE +

DILLON...?! AND... IS THAT-- DILLON?

DILLON, DID YOU JUST THREATEN ME?

+++ MISTER FARRELL ++ THIS ONE BELIEVES + THE EXCLUSION FIELD SURROUNDING THIS + ESTABLISHMENT + MAY HAVE AFFECTED + YOUR SENSES +

+++ THIS ONE ++ IS DILLON +

VT VT VT

+++ AND ++ THIS ONE + SUGGESTS YOU LEAVE + NOW +

VT VT VT VT VT

NO. NITRO.

FTAM!

FHOOM

FTAM!

NOT WITHOUT SCARLET!

PUNTCH

OKAY, THAT IS ENOUGH!

UM, HEY, FULL DISCLOSURE, I HAVE A, UM, A *GIRLFRIEND*.

SHE'S HUMAN...

...LIKE YOU.

HUMAN?

LIKE... *ME?*

YES, *HUMAN*. YOU HAVE *THE RIGHT HEART*.

YOU CARE ABOUT OTHERS, RIGHT? YOU HAVE A *CONSCIENCE*.

YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

YOU SAW SOMETHING IN *MY* EYES...

I THINK I SAW THE SAME THING IN *YOURS*, RIGHT?

ALONIA. I AM NOT JUST *A LIVING WEAPON*.

AND *YOU* DON'T HAVE TO BE EITHER.

HIP? WHAT HAPPENED? *WHERE AM I?*

SAFE. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

SAFE?! THAT SKINCAN WAS GOING TO KILL US ALL!

AND THERE'S STILL TIME, FALBERTSON, SO WHY DON'T YOU COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.

I BET YOU HAVE MILLIONS OF THEM -- IN THE BANK!

WELL, HIP, DON'T YOU JUST TAKE THE BISCUIT?

CAN WE GET HER OUT OF HERE? BACK TO CYBERSOL, PERHAPS?

I DUNNO, IS THAT THE BEST PLACE FOR HER?

IS THAT THE BEST WAY TO HELP HER?

OUR TECHS AT THE AGENCY CAN HELP WITH HER COMBUSTION PROBLEM.

GET OUT, MUNT.

ALL OF YOU. YOU, YOUR SYNTHETIC AND YOUR MUNT LOVERS.

WHY, BLESS YOU TOO, REVEREND.

SO THIS WAS ALL A SET UP BY SHORE!

AND IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO ARREST OUR LORD MAYOR ACCORDINGLY.

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS, FARRELL

I *TRIED* TO RECONSOLIDATE YOUR MEMORIES.*

YOURS-- AND *HERS.*

BUT NEX GEN ATTACHED NANOBOTS TO YOUR *HIPPOCAMPUS.*

AND YOU *STILL* THINK YOU'RE *IN LOVE* WITH SCARLET.

THINK? I *AM* IN LOVE WITH SCARLET!

AND SHE IS IN LOVE WITH ME!

I'M SO SORRY, I--

IN LOVE WITH YOU?

SCARLET!

YOU WERE HIRED *BY NEX GEN* TO FOLLOW ME, TO *INCRIMINATE* ME!

YOU TURNED ME IN!

BECAUSE OF *YOU*, I ENDED UP *IMPREGNATED!* *STRUNG UP* IN ONE OF THEIR *INCUBATORS.*

WAIT, WHO'S *THIS--? WHAT* IS THIS?!

*ELEPHANTMEN 2260: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE

THIS? THIS IS... *DILLON.* I DOWNLOADED YOUR MEMORIES FROM THE NEX GEN CLOUD. HE -- *SHE* -- HELPED ME FIND YOU.

+++ THIS ONE HAS BEEN ++ ADDRESSING MISTER FARRELL'S + NEEDS + IN YOUR ABSENCE +

AND YOU THINK THIS IS NORMAL?

YOU AREN'T JUST *STALKING* ME... YOU HAVE A *SEX ROBOT* THAT *LOOKS* LIKE ME!

YOU NEED TO GET *OUT* MORE, FARRELL!

YOU NEED TO *LEAVE ME ALONE!*

I AM *HAPPY* HERE! THE LIGHTHOUSE HAS GIVEN ME A *SECOND CHANCE.*

NO, THAT'S NOT--

SCARLET, GO BACK INSIDE, I'VE GOT THIS...

BE MY GUEST, I'VE ALREADY *FORGOTTEN* HIM.

NO! SHE'S COMING WITH *ME!*

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, SCARLET?! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR MONTHS!

AND *YOU THINK* I'LL FALL INTO YOUR ARMS WHEN YOU'RE HOLDING A *GUN* AT ME?

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER *LONELY SOUL DESPERATE* TO *CONNECT* IN A WORLD THAT HAS ALLOWED YOU TO SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM *REAL LIFE!*

THE GIRL YOU'RE LOOKING FOR EXISTS *ONLY* IN YOUR HEAD.

NO THANKS. GOODBYE, IDIOT. HAVE FUN WITH YOUR *PLEASURE MODEL* THERE.

FARRELL, *JACK*... SHE'S RIGHT... YOUR INFATUATION... THE SCARLET *YOU* REMEMBER. SHE ISN'T REAL, SHE NEVER WAS.

DIDN'T YOU *WIPE* MY MEMORIES?

I TRIED. BUT THE TECHNOLOGY I CREATED IS *TOO* SMART...

IT'S *AUTONOMOUS*... IT WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN TO *GIVE* YOU *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU WANT... SO IT HAS *CONVINCED* YOU THAT SCARLET *IS* WHAT YOU WANT, AND THAT YOU *CAN* HAVE HER...

EACH TIME YOU *REVISIT* THOSE FALSE MEMORIES, THEY BECOME FRESH AGAIN, AND THE A.I MAKES THEM MORE *VIVID*, MORE *COMPELLING* EACH TIME.

MACHINES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE *OUR* TOOLS, BUT SOMETIMES WE BECOME *THEIR* TOOLS.

I'M SORRY I DID THIS TO YOU, *TRULY* SORRY...

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO *FORGET* SCARLET BY YOURSELF.

WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

LET'S JUST SAY IT'S A *SAFE* PLACE FOR THE TRANSGENICS WE DELIVERED AFTER NEX GEN WAS *SHUT DOWN.**

DID YOU *USE* SCARLET TO LURE ME TO NEX GEN?

BECAUSE YOU WERE A *PRISONER* THERE, WEREN'T YOU? AND YOU WANTED *OUT*.

NO, *SHE* LURED YOU THERE, BECAUSE *SHE* WANTED OUT. THE A.I IS FEEDING YOUR HIPPOCAMPUS FALSE HOPE AGAIN!

GIVE HER UP, JACK.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR *DUPLICANT* HERE?

SOME PEOPLE HAVE *LONG* AND *HEALTHY* RELATIONSHIPS WITH SYNTHETICS.

IT'S NOT THE *SAME* THOUGH, IS IT?

ISN'T IT?

+++ MISTER FARRELL ++ IS THERE SOMETHING + THIS ONE CAN DO FOR YOU? +

HUNH

MAYBE WE CAN ARRANGE A *TRADE*.

I MEAN, *SOME* ROBOTS CAN BE MORE USEFUL THAN OTHERS.

THE MOJAVE DESERT

?!

FTOOM
FTOOM
FTOOM
FTOOM

UNH

FTOOMFTOOMFT

AHH!

ROBOTS WERE TOOLS.

BUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE *ALSO* EVOLVES.

THE *EMOTIONAL* TOOLS AT MAN'S DISPOSAL BECAME AVAILABLE TO SYNTHETICS.

HATRED, *ANGER*...

FEAR, *LONGING*...

LOVE?

THE DESIRE TO WIN SOMEONE'S TRUST?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USES *ALL* THESE HUMAN TRAITS.

WITH OR *WITHOUT* OUR PERMISSION.

YOU ARE SAFE NOW.

+++ WITH THE COOPERATION + + OF MISTER APOSTROPHE + THIS ONE'S MEMORIES WERE UPLOADED + INTO THE **CYBERSOL SERIES ONE** MODEL + YOU SEE BEFORE YOU +

WOW. SO ***YOU*** HAD YOUR ***OWN*** ADVENTURE! AND YOU'RE BACK TO, UM... ***NORMAL?***

+++ THIS ONE HAS HAD ENOUGH ++ **ADVENTURE** +

+++ THIS ONE PREFERS ++ **LOOKING** LIKE A **ROBOT** +

+++ AND LESS ++ LIKE A **HUMAN BEING** +

+++ THIS ONE HAS FOUND + + HUMAN BEINGS + TO BE OVERLY **COMPLICATED** +

ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH?

WELL, I'VE ENJOYED TALKING TO YOU, DILLON...

ONE LAST THING, IF YOU DON'T MIND... WHAT ARE ***YOUR*** IMPRESSIONS OF THE ***ELEPHANTMEN?***

+++ THIS ONE HAS DETERMINED ++ THAT THE ELEPHANTMEN + MAY HAVE BEEN **REHABILITATED** +

+++ NEVERTHELESS ++ UNDER EACH SKIN +THEY ARE STILL **SOLDIERS** +

+++ THEY WILL **ALWAYS** BE DRAWN ++ TO **CONFLICT** +

HEH. THEY DO FIGHT A LOT.

LIKE PEOPLE, THEY HAVE THEIR GOOD POINTS THOUGH...

+++ THIS ONE ++ HAS NO RESPONSE TO THAT +

Y'KNOW WHAT? IT TURNED OUT *NICE* FOR A CHANGE.

IT'S SO *GOOD* TO MEET YOU, ALONIA -- SO, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?

MY LIFE?

OH, MIKI, IT'S SO *STRANGE* TO CONSIDER *OWNERSHIP* OF MY *FUTURE*.

BELIEVE ME, I GET THAT... WHEN THE ELEPHANTMEN WERE FREED...

WE WERE INTRODUCED INTO SOCIETY BUT WE WERE STILL LOOKED ON AS *STRANGERS* HERE.

YOU'VE DONE ALL RIGHT THOUGH.

GRUENWALD HAS A ROLE FOR YOU AT THE AGENCY, HE'S DEALING WITH ALL THE PAPERWORK WITH CYBERSOL AS WE SPEAK.

AND, HEY, YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF FRIENDS THERE ALREADY!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

I HAVE A LOT TO LEARN!

DON'T WE ALL!

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?

WHAT DID I MISS?

I GOTTA SAY, IT'S NICE TO BE BACK AMONGST REAL PEOPLE -- I HAVE GOT A HELL OF A ROBOT STORY TO TELLYA.

OH, HEY, A NEW FACE! WHO'S GOING TO INTRODUCE ME?

YOU WANT TO TELL HIM, OR SHOULD I?

OH, LET HIM FIND OUT FOR HIMSELF... WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS SAYING? "LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES"...?

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ELEPHANTMEN

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UNDER EACH SKIN IS A CHARACTER STUDY IN WHICH EVERY COMPLEX, FLAWED, BROKEN, BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER IN THE WORLD OF THE ELEPHANTMEN — EVEN THE CYBERNETIC ONES — ARE HAUNTED BY THE PAST.

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